

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Washington, D.C. 20201

Request No. 2018-00042-C-OS Equity Forward v. HHS, Civil No. 18-0241 (D.D.C.)

January 31, 2019

Ms. Mary Alice Carter Equity Forward 902 Broadway, 6th Floor New York, NY 10010



Dear Ms. Carter:

This letter is the sixth interim response to your December 11, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)¹ request, which you submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or Department), Administration for Children and Families.

Specifically, you requested access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following 11 officials and employees within the Department, Administration for Children and Families:

- Scott Lloyd
- Maggie Wynne
- Jonathan White
- · Curi Kim
- · Judith Haron
- Anna Marie Bena
- Scott Logan
- Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
- Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
- James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)
- Dr. David Teuscher (Region 6 Director)

You also specifically requested access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to, or carbon-copying ("CC") any of these individuals during the months of March, May, September or October 2017, which included any of the following 24 keywords or phrases:

- · "pregnancy"
- · "pregnant"
- · "ORR director"
- · "abortion"
- "ru-486"
- "CPC"
- · "ultrasound"
- · "rape"
- · "nonconsensual"
- · "Gestational"
- "judicial bypass"

¹5 U.S.C. § 552



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- · "life affirming"
- · "unborn child"
- · "spiritual counseling"
- · "options counseling"
- "WTF"
- · "Terminating"
- · "terminate"
- · "termination"
- · "Pregnancy notification"
- · "Pregnancy notivations"
- · "Scott is"
- · "Scott said"
- · "from Scott"

Your request was forwarded to this office to conduct a search for records from custodians Maggie Wynne, Judith Haron and Dr. David Teuscher.

For this sixth interim response, the HHS Office of the Secretary has processed 787 pages of potentially responsive records captured in the agency's search of Dr. Teuscher's and Maggie Wynne's records. Five hundred, thirty-five (535) pages are from Dr. Teuscher's e-mails, and 252 pages are from Ms. Wynne's e-mails. After performing a careful review of those records, the disposition of the records is as follows:

- 583 pages are being released in full;
- 196 pages are being released with redactions, which were made pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5), and (b)(6) of the FOIA;²
- eight (8) pages of records are outside the scope of your request and are not responsive.

To explain, the above referenced eight pages did not contain any of the 24 keywords and phrases which you listed as search parameters in your request. Specifically, the 8-page unresponsive record is a Medical Reserve Corps document pertaining to Hurricane Harvey, which, although outside the scope of your request and unresponsive, may have been an attachment to an e-mail, and inadvertently captured during the records search.

FOIA exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. This exemption protects documents that would be covered by any privilege an agency could assert in a civil proceeding. These privileges include, among others, the deliberative process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and the attorney work-product privilege.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress

² 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(5), (b)(6)



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intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure, and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

We will continue to review the remaining records as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, consistent with our available resources and the Order of the Court. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the Department's response and\or the processing of your request, any such issues should be communicated to your legal counsel and Department of Justice Attorney representing the Department in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Marquis

Director

Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division

211.

cc: Cerissa Cafasso, Esq.



Equity Forward \ Mary Alice Carter (for OS records production due by 2-1-2019)

FOIA #2018-00042-C-OS \ Legal Case: **1:18-cv-00241-RBW**Dr. David Teuscher: Remaining 535 pages from e-mail inbox



From: Ecoffey, Stacey (HHS/IEA)
Sent: 13 Oct 2017 16:45:54 +0000
To: OS - IGA Regional Offices

Cc: Norton, Jane (OS/IEA);Trueman, Laura (HHS/IEA);Carr, Elizabeth (OS/IEA);Ortiz,

Ashley (OS/IEA);Bratcher-Bowman, Nikki (HHS/IEA) **Subject:** Tribal Affairs Update

Attachments: Oklahoma Tribal Trip 2017 HOT ISSUES.pdf, 09 15 17 STAC remarks.pdf,

Jane.WHCNAA.Remarks.pdf, 2017 Consultation Report Guidelines FINAL.pdf

Good Afternoon Everyone,

On behalf of Director Jane Norton, we wanted to provide you with an update on the work of the Tribal Affairs team. Thank you for all the hard work you continue to do with Tribes across Indian Country! As you know, we've been quite busy in the recent months with Secretarial Travel to Indian Country as well as hosting the first ever Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee meeting in Indian Country. Following up on the great success of the past few weeks, we wanted to be able to share with you relevant materials and begin preparations for the busy spring season as well. Please see below and the attachments for updates and upcoming tasks.

Secretary Briefing Materials

As we've done in the past, we want to ensure that you have the latest information on hot issues in Indian Country. The attached hot issues document includes the latest information as well as potential talking points on a number of issues that have been raised by the STAC as well as other issues from across Indian Country. Please remember this is an internal document and not to be shared. Additionally, we've attached Secretarial remarks on the importance of continuing our work in Indian Country for you to utilize as you continue to engage with Tribes.

Regional Consultation Planning

We are in the early planning phase for consultation season and have identified March 8-9, 2018 to hold the Annual Tribal Budget Consultation here in Washington, DC. We would like all of you to identify dates and locations for each of your sessions between March – May 2018 and have details locked in by **November 30th**, 2017. Please submit potential dates/locations by November 30th, if you have questions about conflicting activities, please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions. In addition the STAC dates for 2018 are:

- January 17-18, 2018
- May 9-10, 2018
- September 20-21, 2018

Annual Consultation Report

It is also time to begin compiling information for the Annual Consultation Report. We've attached this year's guidelines to this email. Please submit your final report by **COB December** 30th. All questions regarding this year's report can be directed to Ashley Ortiz.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns and as always, thank you again for all you do in your work with Indian Country!

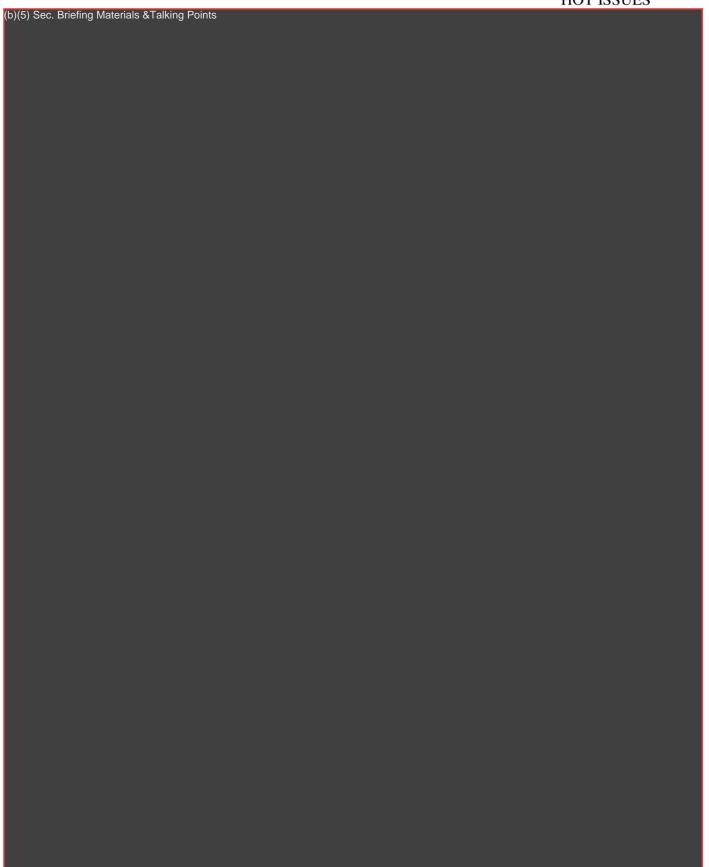


Thanks Again, Stacey

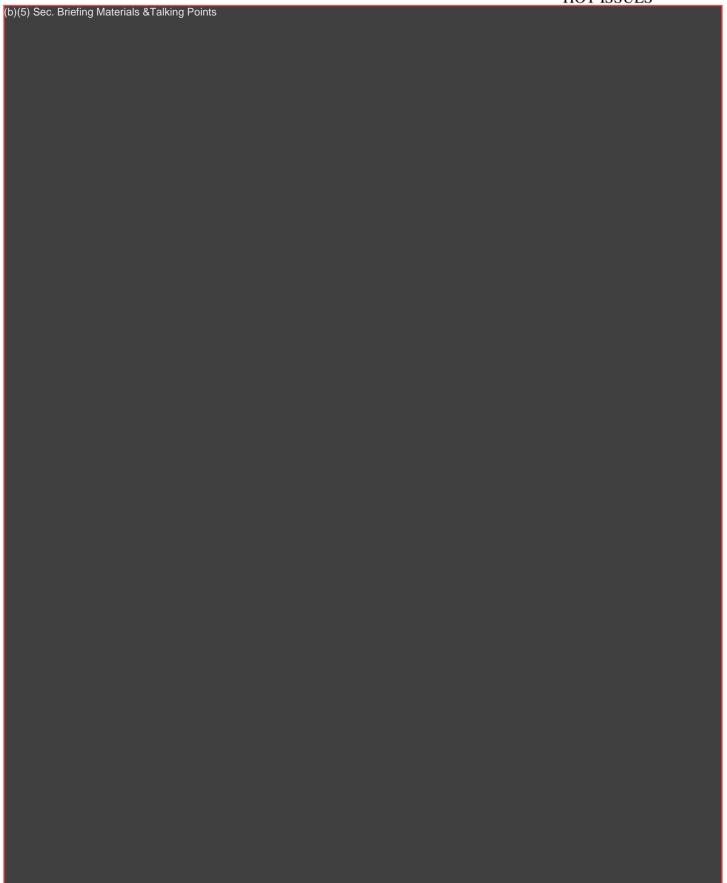


(b)(5) Sec. Briefing Materials &Talking Points





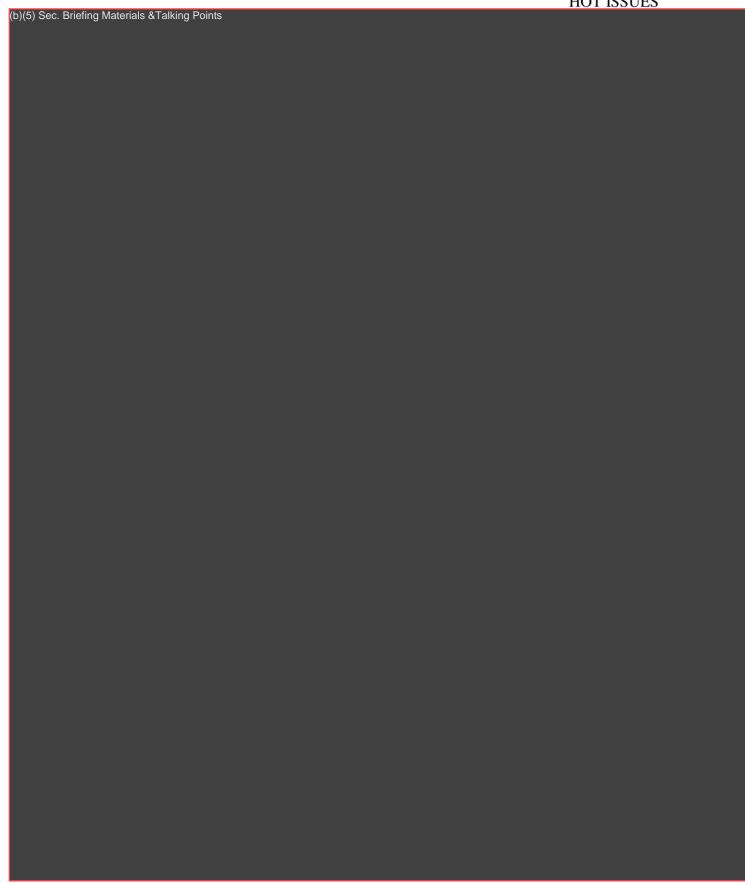




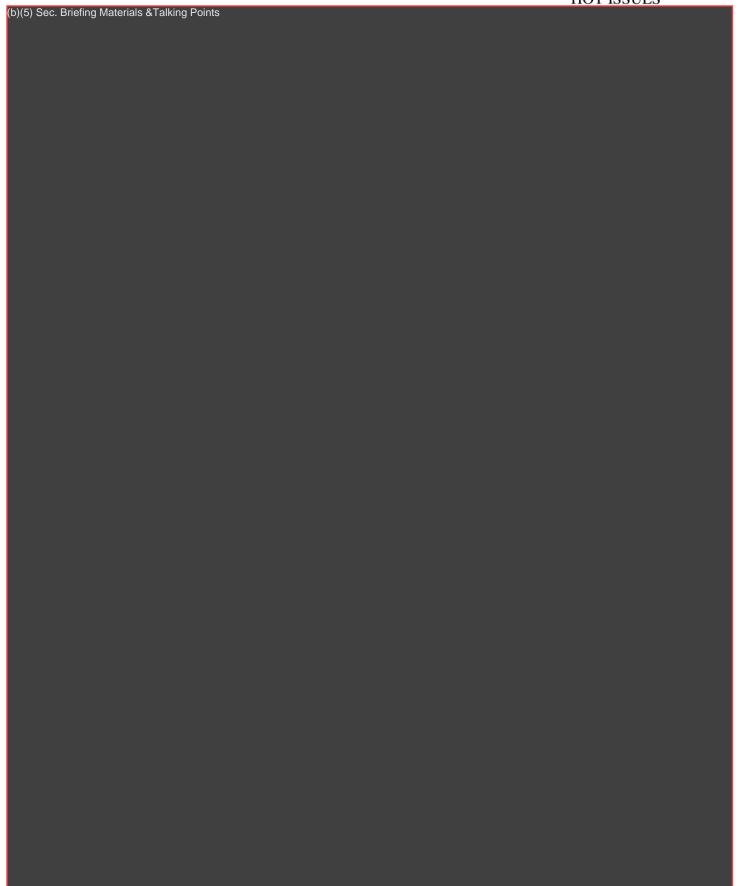




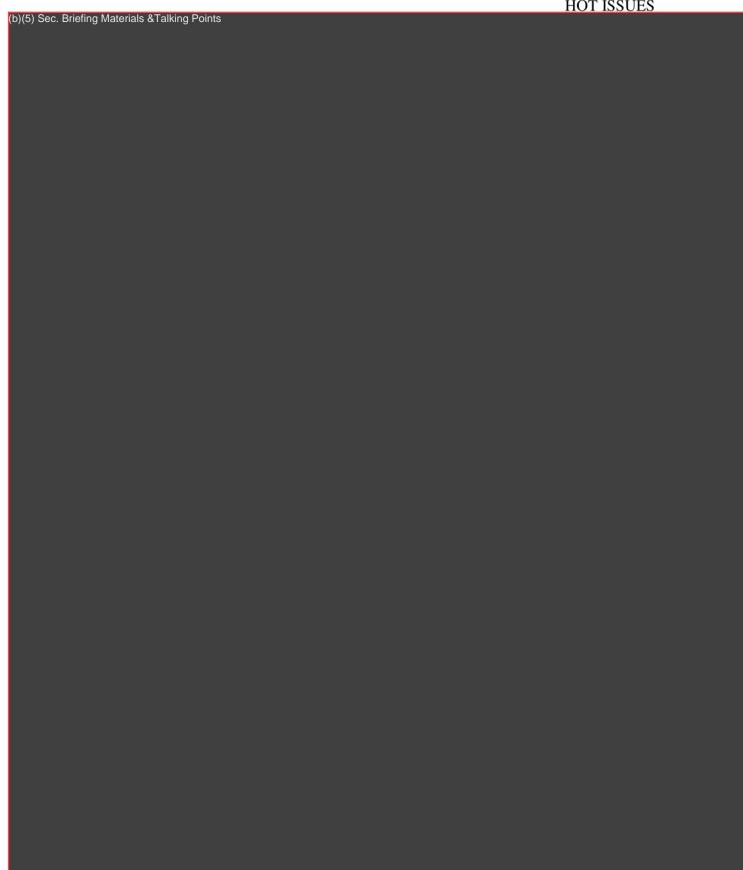








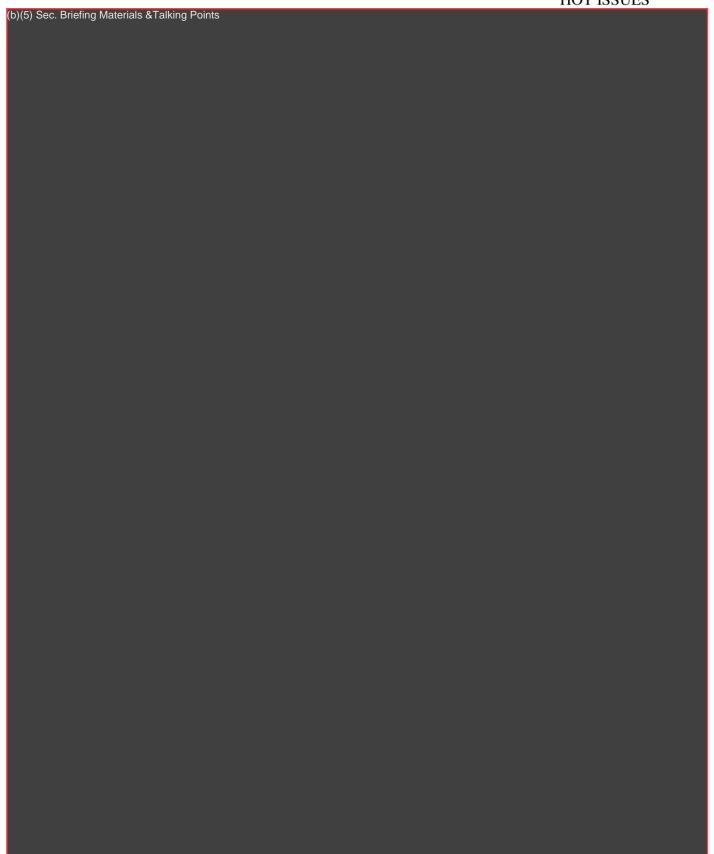






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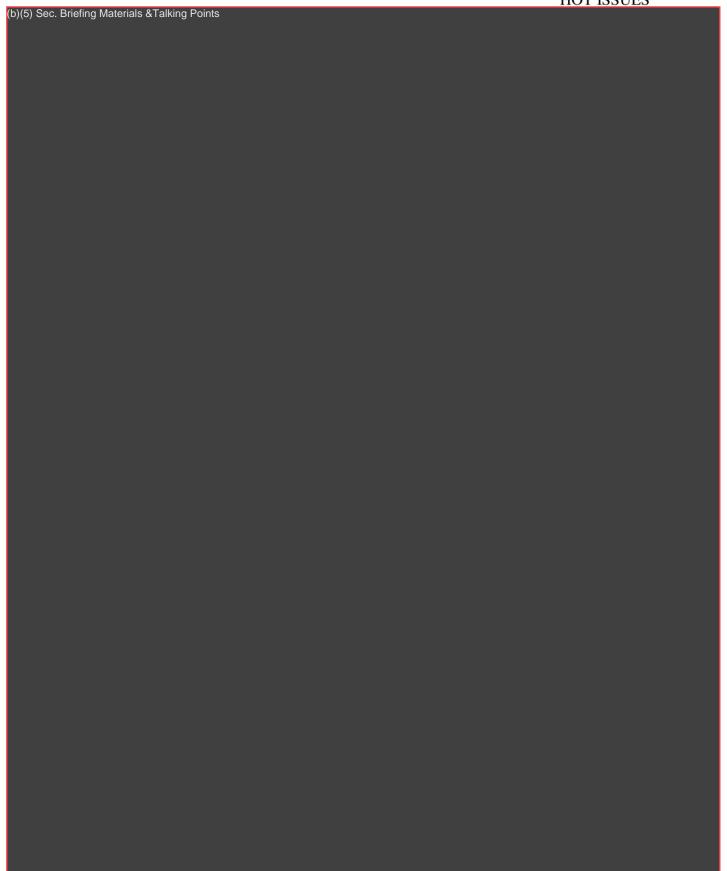




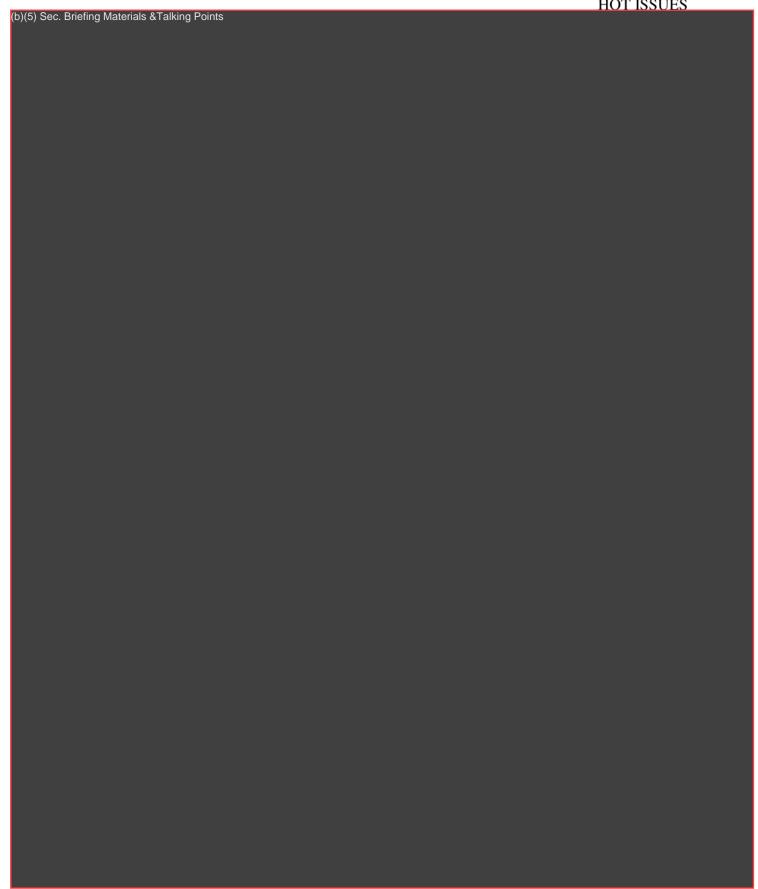




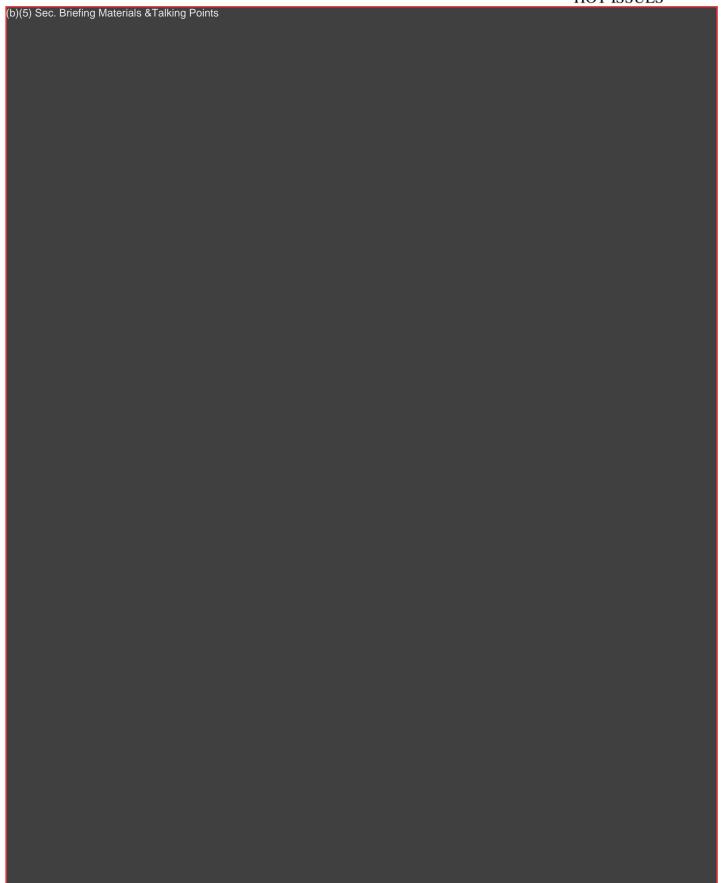




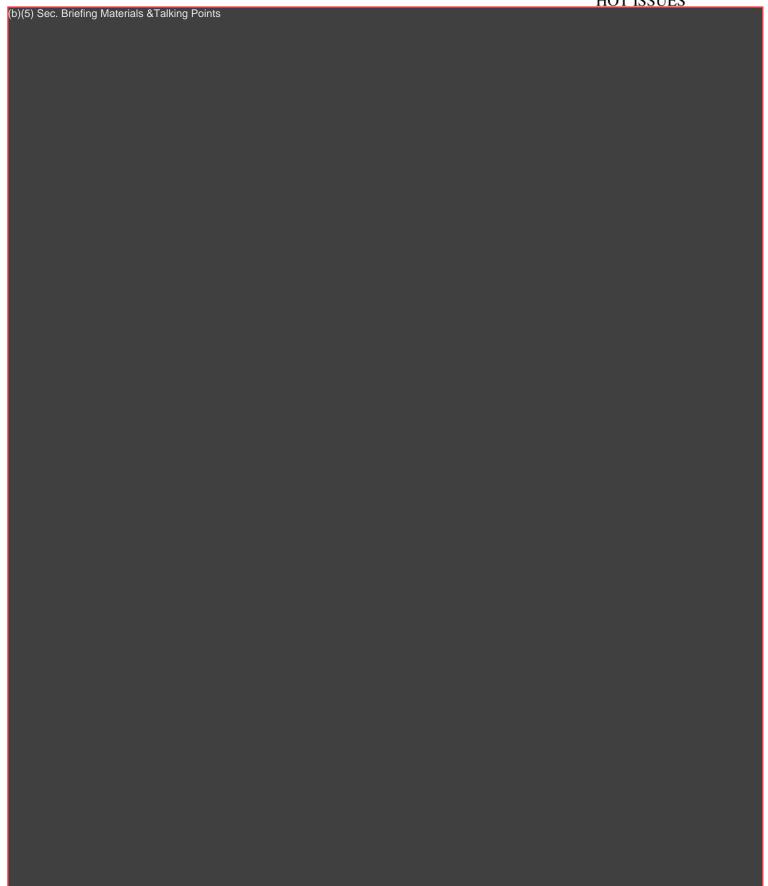




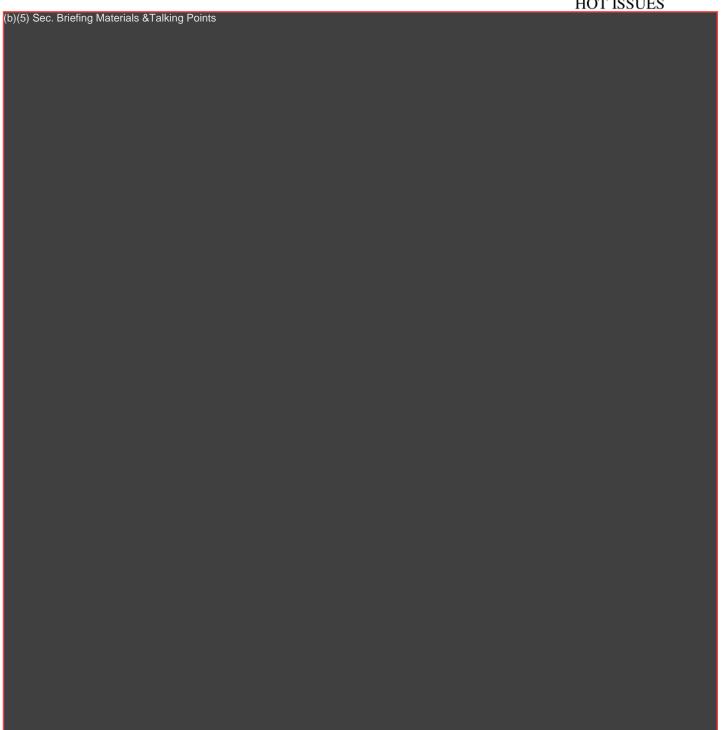














STAC Meeting Remarks

- Good morning, and thank you for that introduction and wonderful welcome.
- Thank you to the entire Cherokee Nation for being such gracious hosts, as well as to the Pawnee Nation for the same.
- It is a great honor to chair the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee.
- Thank you to every member of the STAC who is joining us here today, including our new members your service is essential to maintaining strong, productive communication between Indian country and the federal government in Washington.
- It is a great honor to take this commitment to a new level, by making this meeting, the 22nd meeting of the STAC, its very first meeting in Indian country.
- That decision is representative of the new level of commitment to tribal issues you are going to see from the federal government, under President Trump.
- In the nearly eight months we've now been at the Department of Health and Human Services, tribal issues has been one of the most rewarding and cherished challenges we've delved into.
- As a physician, this particular part of the trust relationship is close to my heart because I
 know firsthand that there is no greater honor than to care for one's neighbor.
- But, as you know, as a government, in some places, we have not always performed this
 task as effectively as we should.
- That is intolerable. Under this administration, we are going to have no patience for substandard care at any IHS facility, by any IHS provider, for any IHS patient.
- So how are we going to make sure every American Indian and Alaska Native patient receives the very best care possible? In part, by forging better, more accountable and productive relationships between our government and yours.
- At HHS, we like to talk about the three P's: people, patients, and partnerships.
- A strong government-to-government partnership will mean real progress in improving patient care, and we have the privilege of announcing one significant step in this direction today.
- As many of you know, we recently had the chance to travel to Alaska, to visit facilities
 run by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a self-governance venture run by the
 Alaska Native tribes.
- We were incredibly impressed by what we saw, as we have been impressed over these last few days in the Cherokee and Pawnee Nations.
- The spirit of caring for the whole patient in Indian country is remarkable something of which all of you should be proud. As I've said in a number of places, it's actually something from which the rest of the country could learn.
- We had the opportunity to hear from Alaska Native leaders while we were there, learn from their experiences, and solicit their concerns.



- One of the issues they raised is the threshold HHS sets for requiring department approval for capital projects, like repairing facilities or building new clinics.
- Currently, land-owning operating divisions, which includes IHS, need department-level approval for capital projects exceeding certain budget numbers—even projects that are authorized by Congress or funded solely by tribal dollars.
- There is a role for department oversight in such decisions, but tribes should not be hamstrung by these rules when they're trying to make meaningful investments in their capacity to provide care.
- So it is a pleasure to announce today that HHS is raising the thresholds for approval of IHS capital projects. There are a few different thresholds depending on the project: the threshold will go from \$1 million to \$5 million for construction, from \$2 million to \$10 million for renovations, and from \$5 million to \$15 million for repairs.
- In addition, capital projects that are funded by tribes and authorized by Congress or funded by tribal dollars, regardless of size, won't require HHS approval.
- Altogether, this means a lot more decisions can be made out here, in Indian country, by those who understand the needs here best.
- We are excited to make this change: It will help empower all of you to move more quickly on decisions and projects that will enable you to better serve patients.
- Needless to say, this should also serve as a reminder that we are listening intently in these sessions—in STAC meetings, in tribal budget consultations, and in meetings like we've had in Cherokee and Pawnee Nations this week.
- Most important, this is also a recognition of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and your tribes. Where possible, we want to empower you to make your own decisions, for your people.
- I want to close with a summation of how seriously we take our obligations to tribal communities within the federal government and HHS.
- In 1970, President Richard Nixon delivered a Special Message to Congress on Tribal Affairs, in which he renounced the policy of terminating recognition of Indian tribes.
- Here's how he described his view of the trust relationship that exists between tribal governments and the U.S. government:
- "For their part, the Indians have often surrendered claims to vast tracts of land and have accepted life on government reservations. In exchange, the government has agreed to provide community services such as health, education and public safety, services which would presumably allow Indian communities to enjoy a standard of living comparable to that of other Americans. This goal, of course, has never been achieved. But the special relationship between the Indian tribes and the Federal government which arises from these agreements continues to carry immense moral and legal force. To terminate this relationship would be no more appropriate than to terminate the citizenship rights of any other American."



- That is how seriously we take the trust relationship—living up to our end of the deal is as fundamental as any obligation the American government has to its citizens.
- Under President Trump, the U.S. government is committed to advancing the American Indian and Alaska Native standard of living and living up to these most serious, solemn obligations.
- Thank you for having me, and I look forward to strengthening our partnership here today.



Jane Norton White House Council on Native American Affairs Friday September 27, 2017

Opening Remarks

Greetings everyone, my name Jane Norton and I serve as the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Immediate Office of the Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services. My office serves as the front door for States, Tribes and Local Governments as they navigate HHS. In addition to being that first point of contact at the Department, my office is also responsible for Tribal Consultation and the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, commonly known, as STAC.

Commitment to Government to Government Relationship

I am honored to be here with you today and thank you for inviting me to share a few words and express the deep appreciation and profound respect that the Secretary Price has for the special government-to-government relationship that exists between the federal government and Indian tribal governments, as well as for the important work tribal leaders do in coming together to advocate for their communities.

At HHS, we are committed to adding our commitment to those efforts. Last week we held the second meeting of the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee under this Administration. We had the special privilege of holding that meeting at Cherokee Nation, the first STAC meeting ever held in Indian Country.

In August Secretary Price visited Alaska and visited with tribal leaders and organizations that represent Alaska Natives. We were inspired by what we saw: The tribes of Alaska have built a system that truly puts the patient at the center, meets the patient's holistic needs by integrating physical and mental healthcare, and incorporates Alaska Native traditions and spirituality.

So we have reason to be heartened about the successes of tribal healthcare. But great challenges remain. And if we're being honest with ourselves, we must acknowledge the fact that, as a Department, in some places, we have not always performed as effectively as we should.

HHS Clinical Priorities

Secretary Price has identified three particular clinical priorities at HHS: the opioid crisis, serious mental illness, and childhood obesity. We know many tribal members have been hit particularly hard by the scourge of substance abuse and opioid addiction, and tackling the opioid crisis is a major priority of this Administration. Americans with serious mental illness have been failed by the inadequate mental health system we have—we must do a better job of connecting them to treatment that works and saves lives. Our high rates of childhood obesity are not just lowering



quality of life for our kids today, but are sentencing many of them to a lifetime of costly, life-threatening health issues.

Tribal communities have unique perspectives on each of these challenges, and successes to share, like the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. Needless to say, issues like this served as a reminder for Secretary Price and his leadership team, we are committed to consultation and honoring our government to government responsibilities. This is why we continue to meet with the STAC, hosted regional consultations across the country, hosted a department wide budget consultation and made visits to Indian Country. These visits not only include Secretary Price but also new political leadership who lead our operating divisions across HHS.

Where possible, we want to empower Tribes to make their own decisions, for their people, just as we do for State and local governments.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon delivered a Special Message to Congress on Tribal Affairs, in which he renounced the policy of terminating recognition of Indian tribes. Here's how he described his view of the trust relationship that exists between tribal governments and the U.S. government:

"For their part, the Indians have often surrendered claims to vast tracts of land and have accepted life on government reservations. In exchange, the government has agreed to provide community services such as health, education and public safety, services which would presumably allow Indian communities to enjoy a standard of living comparable to that of other Americans. This goal, of course, has never been achieved. But the special relationship between the Indian tribes and the Federal government which arises from these agreements continues to carry immense moral and legal force. To terminate this relationship would be no more appropriate than to terminate the citizenship rights of any other American."

That is how serious Secretary Price and the HHS team take the trust relationship—living up to our end of the deal is as fundamental as any obligation the American government has to its citizens.

Secretary Price and I strongly encourage each of you to visit Indian Country and consult with Tribal Leaders. In addition to my current role, I had the great pleasure of serving as the Lt. Governor of Colorado and was honored to chair the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs. I learned a lot in that role and understand that this relationship is a vital piece of what my office does at HHS.

I am happy to help provide some guidance or even to just be a voice to bounce some ideas off as you all build your relationships with Indian Country. At HHS we have great resources like Admiral Weahkee at IHS and of course my own Tribal Affairs team within IEA.



Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I look forward to working in partnership with you as we work to strengthen our work with Indian Country.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 2017 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSION

The Department has steadily worked to enhance our relationship with American Indians and Alaska Natives. In order to continue to improve our partnership with Tribal Governments, the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) asks that OS Regional Offices, all Operating and Staff Divisions and all Regional Offices within each Division produce a report of activities, initiatives and consultation with Tribes covering the period October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. IEA will compile this information in the form of a comprehensive 2017 HHS Tribal Consultation Report and will use it to continue our effective communication and coordination with Tribes.

In the following pages, you will find guidance that describes the information that should be included in your report and instructions on how to submit your final document to IEA. The outline includes an overall table of contents, a set of guidelines that pertains broadly to <u>ALL</u> submissions and specific guidelines for the Operating/Staff Divisions and Regional Offices with a detailed description of what should be included in each section.

The deadline for submission is **Friday**, **December 29**, **2017**

GUIDELINES/INSTRUCTIONS FOR EVERY SUBMISSION:

- DO NOT include any pictures or graphics in the write up. Please provide picture submissions on a separate CD.
- Narratives MUST BE in MS Word Format, using Times New Roman, 12 pitch, single space.
- Spell out acronyms in your response and include a list of all acronyms with your report submission.
- NO Report should be submitted in Tables or Excel.
- NO Reports will be accepted that are not reported in accordance with this guidance.
- The report is due to IEA on <u>Friday, December 29, 2017 by COB.</u> Plan accordingly to have your report submitted to your Ex Sec office so that it will be cleared and submitted to IEA by the due date.



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 - ii. Rules of Order
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- 2. Summary of 2017 Regional Consultation Sessions (1-2 page summary)
- 3. Regional Specific Activities
- 4. Summary of Regional Director Visits to Tribes

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- 3. ICNAA Priorities
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- 2. HHS Organizational Chart
- 3.

Acronyms



OS REGIONAL OFFICES

Guidance:

- This Section will include reports from the OS Regional Office and Regional OpDiv/Staffdiv Offices
- Regional Office Submission should not exceed 10 pages.
- Please report your activities in chronological order, starting with October 2016 and moving to September 2017.
- Be consistent with names and titles when reporting.

Guidance for each section:

- 1. Highlights of Region Specific Accomplishments (include Regional OpDiv/Staff Div accomplishments)
 - i. Please describe if the regional office accomplished anything in particular for the Tribes in your region. Please make your description in no more than 3 paragraphs. Include what the accomplishment was, who the partners were, what the outcome was, and what the next steps are.
- 2. Summary of 2017 Regional Consultation Sessions (1-2 page summary)
 - i. Provide brief 1-2 page summary.
 - ii. Include how many participants, # of Tribal Leaders, # of Tribes, Total # of participants. (Do not list names and titles of participants)
 - iii. Summarize the highlights of discussion, outcomes, and next steps of the session.
 - iv. Include Tribal Priorities
 - v. List of Follow-up Items and Status (DO NOT LEAVE THIS INFO OUT)
- 3. Regional Specific Activities
 - i. Please include any regional office activity that was specific for the Tribes in your region. The description should be no more than 3 paragraphs. Describe tribal specific activities completed including trainings, conferences, grants assistance, etc. Include what the activity was, who the partners were, what the outcome was, and what the next steps are. This should include the work of region's Op-Div/StaffDiv offices.
- 4. Summary of Regional Director Visits to Tribes
 - i. Please summarize your visits in 2017. Aggregate in the following manner:
 - Conference calls
 - 2. Face to Face meetings
 - 3. Actual Tribal Site Visits
 - 4. Other engagements outside of the Regional Consultation.
 - ii. Do not list all the visits individually like you have in the past. We are looking for a summary of these activities not a list.



HHS DIVISIONS

Guidance:

- Only the Divisions/Staff Divisions will need to submit this section.
- Each submission shall be no longer than 30 pages per OPDIV.
- Only include Headquarters Activities, Regional Activities will now be included in the Regional section of the report.
- Activities in this section are specific to be targeted to Indian Tribes.
- Please report your activities in *chronological order* October 2016 September 2017.
- Be consistent with names and titles when reporting.
- Also if you are utilizing acronyms, include a list of acronyms at the end or your report.

Guidance for each section:

- 1. Agency Information Page
 - i. Leadership Listing
 - 1. Principal Information
 - 2. ICNAA Liaison
 - 3. STAC Technical Advisor
 - ii. Please include links to:
 - 1. OpDiv/StaffDiv Organizational Chart
 - 2. OpDiv/StaffDiv Consultation Policy
 - 3. OpDiv/StaffDiv Tribal Technical Advisory Group Membership
- 2. Highlights of Division Specific Accomplishments/Activities (Headquarters Activities Only):
 - i. Please describe if your respective OpDiv or StaffDiv had any special activities or division-wide initiatives geared toward Indian Tribes.
 - ii. Include what the accomplishment was, who the partners were and what the outcomes and next steps are.
 - iii. Please describe this in no more than 3 paragraphs.
- 3. 2017 Division Consultations Overview
 - i. Please provide brief summaries of all consultation sessions held specifically by your OPDIV; include topic, purpose, how many Tribes and Tribal leaders attended and what the outcomes and next steps are.
- 4. Summary of Division Leadership engagement with Tribes
 - i. Please include how many Tribal delegation meetings were held between October 2016 September 2017. Include how many meetings were held with Tribal leaders and principals at a headquarters level.
 - ii. This should not be a list of every meeting but an aggregate summary of all tribal meetings for the reporting period.
- 5. Senior Leadership visits to Indian Country,
 - i. Please include the Tribe visited, purpose of the visit and any outcomes from the visit.
- 6. Forecast of 2017 consultations, conferences, tribal engagements, etc.
 - i. Please include a list of all forecasted 2017 consultations, conferences and tribal engagements. Include dates and location if known.



From: Hunt, Gregorio (HHS/IEA)
Sent: 15 Sep 2017 16:12:55 +0000

To: HHS IEA (OS/IEA)

Cc: Norton, Jane (OS/IEA);Trueman, Laura (HHS/IEA);Johnston, Darcie

(HHS/IEA);Seidel, Elizabeth (OS/IEA);Mason, James (HHS/IEA)

Subject: UPDATED HHS commits \$144.1 million in additional funding for opioid crisis



News Release

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

202-690-6343 media@hhs.gov www.hhs.gov/news Twitter @HHSMedia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 15, 2017

UPDATED

HHS commits \$144.1 million in additional funding for opioid crisis

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded an additional \$144.1 million in grants to prevent and treat opioid addiction in support of President Trump's commitment to combat the opioid crisis. The grants will be administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"Those supporting prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts in our local communities are heroes in our nation's battle against the opioid crisis," said HHS Secretary Tom Price, M.D. "On our nationwide listening tour, we have heard how critical federal resources can empower their efforts to meet the challenges of substance abuse and addiction, especially with the opioid crisis. These grants will help expand treatment and recovery services to pregnant and postpartum women who are struggling with substance abuse, train our first responders to effectively use overdose reversing drugs, improve access to medication-assisted treatment, and increase long term recovery services. Together, we can heal communities and save lives."

According to SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2016 an estimated 11.8 million people misused opioids in the past year, including prescription pain relievers and heroin. Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2016 suggests the number of drug overdose deaths, most of them due to opioids will likely top 60,000.

"Opioid use disorders continue to plague our nation," said Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz,



Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. "These funds will support and expand prevention, treatment and recovery services in America's communities."

The first four of the six grant programs listed below were authorized in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, (P.L. 114-198). CARA authorized funding to fight the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment, recovery, overdose reversal, and other efforts. The fifth grant program listed, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), received an increase in funding for opioids in the fiscal year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

SAMHSA is issuing the funding through the six grant programs listed below in the following amounts:

- First Responders Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$44.7 million. The purpose of this program is to provide training and medication for emergency treatment of opioid overdose. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/SP-17-005
- State Pilot Grant for Treatment of Pregnant and Postpartum Women Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$9.8 million. The purpose of the
 program is to support family-based services for pregnant and postpartum women
 with a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder, including opioid use
 disorders. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-016
- Building Communities of Recovery Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$4.6 million. The purpose of this program is to increase the availability of long-term recovery support for substance abuse and addiction. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-015
- Improving Access to Overdose Treatment Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act \$1 million. The purpose of this program is to expand access to FDA-approved drugs or devices for emergency treatment of opioid overdose. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/SP-17-006
- Targeted Capacity Expansion: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) –
 Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction \$35 million. The purpose of this
 program is to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for persons with an
 opioid use disorder seeking treatment.
 https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-017
- Services Grant Program for Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women - \$49 million. The purpose of this program is to expand services for women and their children in residential substance abuse treatment facilities, among other services. https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/awards/2017/TI-17-007

The funding will be distributed to 58 recipients, including states, cities, healthcare providers and community organizations. The funds will be awarded for three to five years, subject to availability and depending on the program.

Earlier this year, HHS Secretary Price outlined five strategies to provide the Department with a comprehensive framework to combat the ongoing opioid crisis: improving access to



prevention, treatment, and recovery services, including the full range of MAT; targeting the availability and distribution of overdose-reversing drugs; strengthening public health data and reporting; supporting cutting-edge research on pain and addiction; and advancing the practice of pain management.

These awards follow a separate award of \$485 million in grants in April 2017 – provided by the 21^{st} Century Cures Act – to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, and the free associated states of Palau and Micronesia by SAMHSA for opioid abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.

###



From: Ethics Financial Disclosure (HHS/OGC)

Sent: 12 Sep 2017 13:51:44 +0000

Cc: Hall, Randall (HHS/OGC); Weaver, Gretchen (NIH/OD) [E]; Olesh, Stanley D.

(HHS/OGC); Martin, Keiva (OS/OGC); Blanchette, Jason (HHS/OGC); Lee, Steven (HHS/OGC)

Subject: ***Monthly OGE 278-T Transaction Report Reminder*** **Attachments:** Startup MAX.docx, OGE Form 278T (June 2015) (fillable).pdf

Importance: High

This is your reminder that if you, your spouse, or your dependent children made any purchase, sale, or exchange of stocks, bonds (including municipal bonds), commodity futures, or other securities in an amount greater than \$1000 within the last 30 days, you must file an OGE 278-T no later than the 15th of the month. (If the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday, your report is due the following work day.)

You are not required to report transactions involving the following types of holdings::

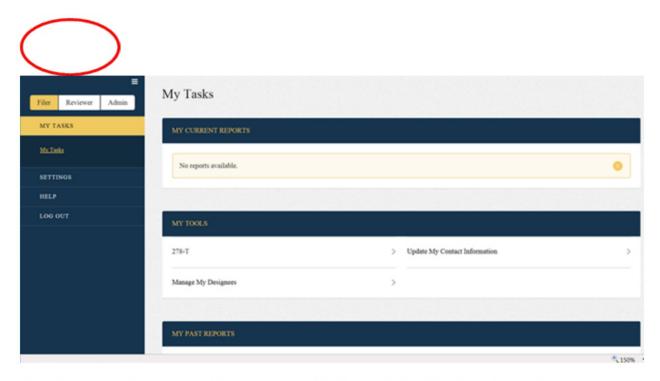
- Mutual Funds
- Treasury Securities
- Real Property
- Life Insurance and Annuities

Negative reports are not required.

As a result of the DOMA ruling, same sex spouse's financial transactions that meet the reporting requirements for the OGE 278-T are required to be reported.

You may e-file your monthly OGE 278-T using **OGE's** *Integrity* **Program** by clicking https://integrity.gov. If you have not logged onto *Integrity* or OMB MAX before, please review the attached startup guidance to obtain an OMB MAX account. After logging into *Integrity* and to self-start your monthly OGE 278-T, click the '278-T' link found under your 'My Tools' section on your 'My Tasks' menu.





If you file a signed hard copy of the form, it must be forwarded to this office via email: ethics.financialdisclosure@hhs.gov

If you have any questions, please contact the Ethics Division Financial Disclosure team.

Thank you, Financial Disclosure Section



On the landing page, https://integrity.gov, click on "Login to Integrity."

On the login screen, you may have several options:

- 1. Enter your MAX.gov user ID and password (note: if you have never logged in to MAX.gov, click on the "Forgot, set, or change your password?" link and follow the on-screen prompts to create a password on MAX.gov);
- 2. Choose to login with your CAC/PIN; or,
- 3. If your agency is listed as a "MAX Agency Federated Partner," login by clicking on the button for your agency. MAX will route you through your agency authenticator. If you are already logged in at your agency, you will be connected directly to MAX without further



prompt. Consider checking the "Use this Agency Login every time I log into MAX." If you exclusively use this feature for MAX login, you no longer need to periodically update your MAX password.

INTEGRITY uses MAX authentication service so your agency doesn't have to manage user IDs and passwords.

Mention login to *INTEGRITY*. MAX Support: 202.395.6860, maxsupport@omb.eop.gov. Available weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and weekends 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Troubleshooting login. Try one or more of these tips if you see an "access denied" error message.

- 1. Are you registered as an Integrity user? Check with your agency ethics official.
- 2. Never logged in to MAX.gov? Activate the MAX.gov account when starting to login to *INTEGRITY*. Here is how: Click "Login to Integrity" on the landing page, https://integrity.gov, to open the ID/password dialog box. Above the password field, click on the "*Forgot, set, or change your password?*" link. This will open a dialog box where you enter your email address to receive MAX.gov account activation instructions and to create a password that you will use to access *INTEGRITY*.
- 3. What Internet browser? Must be Internet Explorer (IE) 10 or greater, Google Chrome 36 or greater, Firefox 31 or greater, or Safari 6 or greater. Also works with IE 9 if Adobe flash player installed. Check with your IT Help Desk.
- 4. Clear your cache.
 - a. Your Internet browser's cache stores various information from web pages you visit.

 Occasionally, the cache can prevent you from seeing updated content or cause functional problems. You can fix many browser problems by simply clearing your cache. To clear your browser's cache (temporary internet files), visit http://www.wikihow.com/Clear-Your-Browser's-Cache, for instructions.
 - b. Close your Internet browser window(s) completely, then in a new browser window go to https://integrity.gov, and click "Login to Integrity".

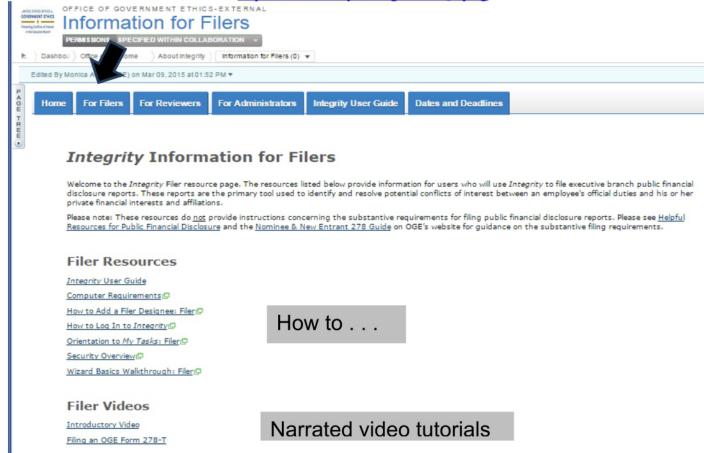


5. Determine which Internet browser you are using at http://www.whatsmybrowser.org/. You may need to provide that information for support.

Contact MAX Support for login assistance. Mention login to *INTEGRITY*. MAX Support: 202.395.6860, maxsupport@omb.eop.gov. Available weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and weekends 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Want more information?

- Contact your ethics official,
- See the User Guide, Section 4 (OGE form 278e) or Section 5 (OGE Form 278-T) for screenby-screen instructions, or
- View the For Filer tab online at https://community.max.gov/x/vQApLg.







OGE Form 278-T (June 2015) 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT: Periodic Transaction Report

Instructions for Completing the OGE Form 278-T

Who Must File

You must file a periodic transaction report if:

- you are in a position that requires you to file an annual or termination public financial disclosure report (OGE Form 278), and
- you have a reportable transaction as discussed below.

You are not required to file a negative report if you have no reportable transactions.

What to Report

Report any purchase, sale, or exchange by you, your spouse, or dependent child of stocks, bonds, commodity futures, and other securities if the amount of the transaction exceeded \$1,000. You do not need to report: (1) mutual funds and other excepted investment funds; (2) certificates of deposit, savings or checking accounts, and money market accounts; (3) U.S. Treasury bills, notes, and bonds; (4) Thrift Savings Plan accounts; (5) real property; and (6) transactions that are solely by and between you, your spouse, or dependent child.

For each reported transaction:

- Identify the security (e.g., "Central Airlines Co.").
- Mark a column to indicate the type of transaction.
- Provide the date that the transaction occurred.
- If you received notification of the transaction more than 30 days ago, mark the column labeled "Notification Received More Than 30 Days Ago." (Extensions of the due date should be noted in the "Notice of Extension" section.)
- Mark a column to indicate the amount of the transaction.

Voluntary Reporting of Annual/Termination Information

You do not need to report a transaction in an annual or termination report (OGE Form 278) if you have already reported the transaction in a periodic transaction report (OGE Form 278-T). Annual and termination reports, however, also require you to report purchases, sales, or exchanges of: (1) mutual funds and other excepted investment funds; and (2) real property (excluding your personal residence). If you prefer to report such transactions in your periodic transaction report(s) rather than in an annual or termination report, you may do so, unless your agency requires duplicate reporting.

When to File

Periodic transaction reporting is subject to two different deadlines. Under the Ethics in Government Act, you need to file a report:

- within 30 days of receiving notification of a transaction, but
- not later than 45 days after the transaction.

Which deadline applies depends on when you receive notification of the transaction. Normally, you need to disclose a transaction within 30 days of receiving the notification. For example, if you receive online confirmation of a transaction that you ordered earlier today, you will file your report within 30 days.

Sometimes, you might not receive notification right away. In that case, the 45-day deadline can shorten the period for filing your report. For example, if today you receive notification of a transaction that occurred early last month, you will need to be sure to file your report no later than 45 days after the transaction occurred. The 45-day period might end sooner than 30 days from today.

Example 1: You purchase a stock on July 1 and receive notification the same day. You need to report the purchase on or before July 31.

Example 2: You receive a statement on August 10 regarding a purchase that occurred on July 31. You need to report the purchase on or before September 9 because September 9 is 30 days after you received notification of the transaction.

Example 3: You receive a statement on August 10 regarding a purchase that occurred on July 1. You need to report the purchase on or before August 15. Although the 30-day period from notification ends September 9, the 45-day period from the date of the transaction ends earlier.

Note: These deadlines do not apply to any voluntary disclosures of annual and termination report information that you choose to make.

Extensions and Late Filing Fees

Your agency may grant an extension of up to 45 days for good cause shown with the possibility of one additional extension of up to 45 days. If your report is filed more than 30 days after the date the report is required to be filed, or, if an extension was granted, more than 30 days after the last day of the filing extension period, you shall be subject to a \$200 late filing fee. A report is considered to be filed when it is received by your agency. Unless waived by your agency, your agency will collect

HHS-OS EF Lit 18-0244 feet footbases with the U.S. Treasury.

EXT-18-241-M-000036

OGE Form 278-T (June 2015) 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT: Periodic Transaction Report

NOTICES

Privacy Act Statement

Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the Act), 5 U.S.C. app. § 101 et seq., as amended by the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-105) (STOCK Act), and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Act or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding when the Government is a party or in order to comply with a judge-issued subpoena; (4) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (5) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (6) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (7) to the Department of Justice or in certain legal proceedings when the disclosing agency, an employee of the disclosing agency, or the United States is a party to litigation or has an interest in the litigation and the use of such records is deemed relevant and necessary to the litigation; (8) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another; (9) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of an individual who is the subject of the record; (10) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to an OGE Governmentwide system of records; and (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branchwide Privacy Act system of records.

Warnings

Knowing and willful falsification of information, or failure to file or report information required to be reported by section 102 of the Act, may subject you to a civil monetary penalty and to disciplinary action by your employing agency or other appropriate authority under section 104 of the Act. Knowing and willful falsification of information required to be filed by section 102 of the Act may also subject you to criminal prosecution.



OGE Form 278-T (June 2015) 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 U.S. Office of Government Ethics

Executive Branch Personnel PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT: Periodic Transaction Report

Filer's Name (Print Last, First, and Middle Initial)	Title of Position for Which Filing						Department or Agency													
Certification: I CERTIFY that the statements I have made	Signature of the Filer						Date (Month, Day, Year)							Notice of Extension						
on this form and any attachments are true, complete, and											Check if granted									
correct to the best of my knowledge.											Indicate number of days:									
Signature of Intermediate Reviewing Official (if required by agency)			Date (Month, Day, Year)						Agency Use Only							OGE Use Only				
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Signature of Agency's Final Reviewing Official			Date (Month, Day, Year)						Comments of Reviewing Officials											
CL 4 PD 1 1 OPP 1 1 ATT COPP RC	(Tall : (:0 : 1)	D 4 04	. D. W	`																
Signature of Reviewing Official at U.S. Office of Government Ethics (if required)			h, Day, Year																	
Report any purchase, sale, or exchange by you, your spouse, or You do not need to report: (1) mutual funds and other excepted notes, and bonds; (4) Thrift Savings Plan accounts; (5) real proposed to the proposed solution of the proposed solution of the proposed solution.	investment funds; (2) certificate	es of deposit, s	avings or che	cking u, yo	g acco our spo	unts, ouse,	and n	noney	marke	t accou	unts; (3	3) U.S.	Treas	ury bil	ls,					
				Transaction Type (x)			Amount of Transaction (x)													
Deadlines You must file your report within 30 days of when you receive notification of a transaction but not later than 45 days after the transaction. These deadlines do not apply to any voluntary additional disclosures you make. See the instructions. Identification of Assets		Transaction Date (Mo./Day/Yr.)	Notification Received More Than 30 Days Ago*	Purchase		Exchange	\$1,001 - \$15,000	15,001 - 50,000	\$50,001 - \$100,000	\$100,001 - \$250,000	\$250,001 - \$500,000	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	Over \$1,000,000**	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	\$5,000,001 - \$25,000,000	\$25,000,001 - \$50,000,000	Over \$50,000,000			
Ex. Central Airlines Co.		10/1/12	Ago	X	-		8 8	8 8	X	8 8	8 8	8 8	0 \$	8 8	8 8	8 8	0 \$			
Ex. BMSL Propulsion, Inc.		9/4/12	X	X				X												
1																				
2										Ĺ				1						
3																				
4																				
5																				
6																				
7																				
*Extensions of the due date should be noted in the "Notice	of Extension" section of this for	rm.																		

^{**} This category applies only if the underlying asset is solely that of your spouse or dependent children, use the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

Filer's Name Transactions continued (Use only if needed)												Page Number						
				Transaction Type (x)						Am	saction (x)							
Identification of Assets		Date (Mo./Day/Yr.)	Notification Received More Than 30 Days Ago*	Purchase	Sale		1,001 - 15,000	\$15,001 - \$50,000	50,001 - 100,000	.100,001 - .250,000	.250,001 - 500,000	500,001 -)ver 1,000,000**	1,000,001 -	5,000,001 -	.25,000,001 -	Over \$50,000,000	
1			Ago				\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$ \$	\$	
2																		
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16																		

^{*} Extensions of the due date should be noted in the "Notice of Extension" section of this form.

^{**} This category applies only if the underlying asset is solely that of your spouse or dependent child. If the underlying asset is either held by you or jointly held by you with your spouse or dependent children, use the other higher categories of value, as appropriate.

From: Scarborough, M Melissa (CMS/CQISCO)

Sent: 15 Sep 2017 15:11:11 +0000 **To:** Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR FRIDAY,

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

CMS REGION 6 LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CLIPS

NEW MEXICO OFFICIALS SAY STATE INSURANCE MARKET HAS STABILIZED. Santa Fe New Mexican (9/14, Krasnow, 42K) reports that according to New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance John Franchini, health insurance rates on the state's Affordable Care Act are set to rise between 17 percent and 20 percent and will be finalized Friday. Franchini said the state insurance market has stabilized as four insurance providers will be offering plans in 2018, despite federal policy uncertainties.

MEDICAID DEMAND STRAINS NEW MEXICO'S FINANCES. The AP (9/15) reports New Mexico's Human Services Department, which oversees Medicaid, has requested an \$84 million increase from the general fund due to an "increased strain" on state finances from Medicaid healthcare spending. The article says that Congress could "remove some of the pressure" by extending the Children's Health Insurance Program.

REDUCTION IN HHS, CMS HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETING BUDGETS WILL IMPACT NORTH TEXAS HEALTHCARE GROUPS. The <u>D Healthcare Daily (TX)</u> (9/14, Nguyen) reports that in response to HHS and CMS announcing reductions in their health-insurance marketing budgets, "Dallas-Fort Worth healthcare groups say the cuts will directly impact the North Texas market, as marketing and patient navigation organizations are affected by funding reductions." W. Steve Love, president and CEO of the DFW Hospital Council, called the decision "shocking and disappointing." He added, "Locally, we have been fortunate to have community-based patient navigators in Dallas, Tarrant, and surrounding counties. The hospitals also have patient navigators to [help] eligible beneficiaries enroll in the health insurance marketplace." Love said he hopes HHS will reverse the funding reductions.

POLICE "RAID" TEXAS NURSING HOME THAT LEFT RESIDENTS IN FLOODWATERS. The AP (9/14) reports that on Thursday, police "raided" Lake Arthur Place, a Texas nursing home where law enforcement found 74 elderly residents being "kept in floodwaters during Tropical Storm Harvey." A Port Arthur police affidavit said nursing home administrator Jeff Rosetta resisted evacuation efforts and was handcuffed during the process, adding that his resistance and lack of action prior to flooding resulted in injuries among residents. Rosetta and the center are under investigation.

OFFICIALS BELIEVE HURRICANE HARVEY DEATH TOLL IS "AT LEAST 82." The Washington Post (9/14, Moravec, 10.38M) reports that Texas officials said Thursday that the death toll from Hurricane Harvey is believed to be "at least 82 people," but "it could take weeks to determine the exact death toll." The Post says the number could have been significantly higher, "given the amount of flooding and that entire communities were cut off for days."

HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD DISTRICT SEEKING FUNDS FOR HARVEY-RELATED HOME BUYOUTS. A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/14, Whoriskey, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that while the Houston suburb of Meyerland "has long presented a facade of prosperity and permanence," after "major floods" in 2015, 2016 and this year form Hurricane Harvey, "the envy is dissipating, replaced by the onceunthinkable idea that swaths of Meyerland ought to be abandoned and returned to nature." While "a retreat from a thriving neighborhood is a rarity in U.S. urban history," in Harvey's wake, "the notion is compelling enough in flood-prone communities that it has drawn support from leading planners in



Houston." The Post adds that officials with the Harris County Flood Control District, which includes Houston, "announced last week that they are 'actively pursuing the funding necessary to proceed with Harvey-related home buyouts."

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + CBO Predicts Higher Premiums For ACA Plans, Lower Enrollment Due To Trump Policies.
- + HHS Cuts Funding For Some Navigators By As Much As 85%.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + HHS Secretary Price Announces Funding For Opioid, Mental Health Services In Visit To New Hampshire.
- + Trump Administration Reportedly Considering Using Tax Reform To Defund ACA.
- + Advocates Urge HHS To Reject Massachusetts' Waiver Request To Cut MassHealth Transportation Benefits.
- + Opinion: MACRA Provides An Opportunity To Transform Care Through Alternative Payment Models.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Medicare To Issue New Cards In Anti-Fraud Effort.
- + Gottlieb: FDA Is Focused On Boosting Competition To Address Drug Prices.
- + FDA Approves Biosimilar Version Of Bevacizumab.
- + FDA Approves Copanlisib To Treat Follicular Lymphoma.
- + Paulsen: FDA Needs To Be Modernized.
- + FDA Approves App To Treat Substance Abuse.
- + New Product Claims It May Reduce Peanut Allergies In Infants.
- + House \$1.2 Trillion Spending Bill Adds \$9 Billion In NIH Funding.
- + Dogs Participating In Clinical Trials Of Immuno-Oncology Treatments.
- + Immunotherapy Trials Increased In Popularity Since "False Dawn" Of IL-2.
- + <u>Current Anti-Cancer Technology Evolving To Better Treat Patients.</u>
- + Problem Drinking Rising Fast Among Older Americans, NIAAA Researchers Find.
- + CDC Director Warns Of Post-Hurricane Dangers.
- + Reduction In HHS, CMS Health Insurance Marketing Budgets Will Impact North Texas Healthcare Groups.
- + AHRQ, PCORI To Award Grants For Learning Health System Training And Research.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + Trump Criticizes Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal, Calls It "A Curse On The US."
- + <u>Trump Says McCain's Vote Against The Senate's ACA Repeal Bill Led To Sanders' Single-Payer Proposal.</u>
- + Graham Urges Trump To Focus On ACA Repeal Ahead Of Reconciliation Deadline.
- + Sen. Barrasso Wants CBO to Score Sanders' "Medicare For All" Proposal.
- + Growing Support For Single-Payer Among Dems Shows Sanders' Influence In The Party.
- + Sanders Reportedly Fails To Explain How His Single-Payer Plan Will Be Funded.
- + Analysis: Americans Are "Ambivalent" About Single-Payer, Not "Clamoring" For It As Sanders Contends.
- + Number Of Uninsured Veterans Would Increase If ACA Were Repealed, Study Indicates,
- + Healthcare Debate Becomes Part Of Baldwin's Bid For Re-Election Next Year.
- + Cuts To Outreach Efforts May Impact Low-Income Iowans Who Purchase ACA Plans.



- + ACA Had Significant Impact On Number Of Insured, Census Data Indicate.
- + Single-Payer Plan Similar To Sanders' "Failed...Really Badly" In Colorado.
- + Senate HELP Committee Hopes To Complete ACA Stabilization Measure By Early Next Week.
- + Some Dems Willing To Consider Alternatives To ACA's Individual Mandate.
- + Bipartisan Group Of Senators Working On ACA Stabilization Bill Still At Odds.
- + Op-Ed Says Insurers May Be Willing To Compromise With Sanders On Single-Payer.
- + Sponsors Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill Seek To Garner Support Among Colleagues.
- + Rep. Louie Gohmert Pushing Senators To Pass ACA Repeal Bill Before Month's End.
- + Senator GOP Whipping Support For Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill.
- + New Mexico Officials Say State Insurance Market Has Stabilized.
- + South Carolina Insurance Chief Urges Congress To Fund CSR Payments.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

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- + Opinion: Physicians Contributed To, Now Need To Help Reverse, The Opioid Epidemic.
- + Prosecutors Say Insys Founder Is An Unindicted Co-Conspirator In Opioid Case.
- + Indiana Begins Data Collection, Sharing Initiative To Combat Opioid Crisis.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Opinion: Medicaid Agencies Not Doing Enough To Stop Fraud.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Authorities Continue Investigation Of South Florida Nursing Home Where Eight Died.
- + House Energy And Commerce Committee May Seek Nursing Home Oversight Following Recent Deaths.
- + Long-Term Care Industry Objected To Costs Of 2005 Bill That Would Have Mandated Generators.
- + Florida Nursing Home Says It Was Prepared For Irma As Investigation Continues.
- + Florida Representative Blasts Nursing Home For Evacuation Delay.
- + <u>Trump Administration's Support For Arbitration Agreements Could Make It Harder To Sue Florida</u> Nursing Home.
- + Shulkin Opens VA's Beds To Nursing Home Residents Affected By Irma.
- + Police "Raid" Texas Nursing Home That Left Residents In Floodwaters.
- + Experts Recommend Strategies For Selecting Trustworthy Nursing Home.
- + Opinion: Healthcare Price Shopping Process Needs Improved Transparency.
- + US House Votes To Repeal DC's Assisted-Suicide Law, Senate Has Yet To Act.

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- + Seventy Healthcare Organizations Press Congress On DACA.
- + Pennsylvania Auditor General Finds Child-Welfare System To Be "Broken" In New Report.

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+ Cardiologist Discusses Weight Gain, Metabolic Changes Tied To Artificial Sweeteners.

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+ Health Data Exchange Could Save Medicare \$3.12 Billion Annually, Study Says.

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- + Former Sen. Frist: Children's Health Insurance Program Demands Quick, Bipartisan Passage.
- + Opinion: CHIP Reauthorization Remains Tenuous As Deadline Approaches.
- + Medicaid Demand Strains New Mexico's Finances.
- + Virginia House Candidates Face Off Over Medicaid Expansion.
- + Idaho Officials Offer Plan To Address Medicaid Gap, Lower Premiums.
- + Study Finds ACA Medicaid Expansion Tied To Earlier Cancer Care For The Poor.
- + Columnist Asks Whether Nevadans Would Pay Higher Taxes For Medicaid Expansion.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:



- + New Therapies Indicate Cancer Is Becoming More Survivable.
- + Variety Of New Cancer Treatments Are Under Development.
- + Researchers Make Progress In Treating Pediatric Cancer Thanks To Donated Brain Of Former College Football Coach's Grandson.
- + Philadelphia Institutions Participating In NIH-Funded "Smart" Water Bottle Study To Reduce Kidney Stones.
- + Pennsylvania Health Department Issues Report On Pittsburgh Hospital's Breach Of Privacy Of Unconscious Patient.
- + Man Suffers Erectile Dysfunction After Being Scratched By Cat.
- + March For Science Organizers Plot Long-Term Strategy.
- + Roswell Park Researchers Explore Beta Blocker Use For Cancer Therapies.
- + Report Finds Shortcomings In Biomedical Research.
- + Happy Music May Stimulate Creativity, Study Suggests.
- + In Long-Term Relationships, Women Are More Likely Than Men To Lose Interest In Sex, Study Suggests.
- + Physician Says "Nudges" Can Help Seriously III Patients Make Hard End-Of-Life Decisions.
- + House Votes To Prohibit Funding Of District Of Columbia Reproductive Health Law.
- + Ohio House Speaker Says Flu Vaccine Bill Moved Too Quickly, Needs Work.
- + Abortion Rates Fall As More Hospitals Are Acquired By Catholic-Affiliated Systems, Study Suggests.
- + Enzalutamide Shows Promising Results For Patients With Early Stage Prostate Cancer In Clinical Trial.
- + Moderna, AstraZeneca's Experimental Heart Drug Shows Promising Results In Early Trial.
- + Romosozumab Reduces Risk Of Bone Fractures In Women With Osteoporosis, Study Indicates.
- + Investors Funding Companies Developing Technologies To Improve Medication Adherence.
- + <u>Drugs Approved Under Expedited Review Have Higher Rate Of Changes To Safety Warnings, Study Finds.</u>
- + Federal Investigation Results In New Confession In International Counterfeit Pet Pharmaceutical Scam.
- + Commentary Supports Philip Morris' Modified Risk Tobacco Product Application For IQOS Technology.
- + Lilly, Incyte's Baricitinib Meets Phase 2 Endpoints.
- + Brief, Intense Exercise May Activate Molecular Pathways In The Body That Boost Chemicals That Suppress Growth Of Breast Cancer Cells, Research In Mice Suggests.
- + San Diego Bleaching Streets To Combat Hepatitis A Outbreak.
- + Suffolk County Confirms First Two Human West Nile Virus Cases Of Year.
- + Yolo County Officials Confirm Two "Severe" Cases Of West Nile Virus.
- + Company Develops New 3-D Printing Technique To Produce Viable Human Organs.
- + Google Imposes Restrictions On Ads Placed By Drug Rehabilitation Centers.
- + Column: Hospital Administrators Responsible For Managing, Preventing Workplace Violence Against Nurses.
- + Allergan Tribal Patent Delves Into Unexplored Legal Terrain.
- + Gardner Signs On To Support Medical Marijuana Research Bill.
- + Study: Bacteria Could Protect Tumors From Anticancer Drugs.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says DACA Deal Would Include "Massive Border Controls."
- + Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal And State Response.
- + SBA Providing Low-Interest Disaster Loans To Irma Victims.
- + Irma's Agricultural Cost Estimated In The Billions.
- + Florida Facing Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters.
- + FPL Promises To Have Power On By Sunday On Florida's East Coast.
- + Focus In Florida Keys Turns To Relief.
- + Mobile Home Community Takes "Horrific Hit."
- + Raw Sewage Backing Up On Lawns In Lee County, Florida.
- + VA Opens Beds To Nursing Home Residents Affected By Irma.
- + Irma's Death Toll Rises To 26.
- + Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten.
- + Models Indicate Tropical Storm Jose Is Unlikely To Come Ashore.
- + Officials Believe Hurricane Harvey Death Toll Is "At Least 82."



- + Harris County Flood District Seeking Funds For Harvey-Related Home Buyouts.
- + Trump Reiterates That There Were "Bad Dudes" On Both Sides In Charlottesville.
- + Trump To Hold Conference With Jewish Leaders.
- + NYTimes A1: Trump "Berated" Sessions After Appointment Of Mueller.
- + USA Today Analysis: Congressional Panels In Russia Probe "Tripping Over One Another."
- + Trump Rips Rice's Unmasking Of Transition Officials As "Just The Tip Of The Iceberg."
- + White House Pressing State To Speed Up Release Of Clinton Emails.
- + In Leaked Memo, McMaster Tells Agencies To Warn Staff Against Leaking Information.
- + Mnuchin Says Request To Use Government Jet Was Based On Need For Secure Communications.
- + Senate Panel Approves Four Trump Judicial Nominees.
- + Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule Rather Than Repeal It.
- + Trump To Spend Majority Of Week In NYC At Palace Hotel.
- + Dow Sets Record As S&P And Nasdaq Slide.
- + Rosenstein Signals Upcoming Changes On Corporate-Crime Prosecution Policy.
- + Pompeo Cancels Harvard Speech After Chelsea Manning Named Fellow.
- + McConnell-Backed Group's Poll Shows Moore Leading Strange 41%-40%.
- + NRCC Official Says There's "No Indication" Trump Will Wade Into GOP House Primaries.
- + Progressive Groups Spending \$2M On Digital Ads Aimed At Boosting Northam.
- + Poll: 50% Of Voters Say Menendez Doesn't Deserve Reelection In 2018.
- + Head Of AFP's Tennessee Chapter Announces Run For Corker's Seat.
- + Michigan's El-Sayed Bidding To Become Nation's First Muslim Governor.
- + State Democratic Party Chief Says Rep. Castro "Considering" Run Against Abbott.
- + "The Upshot" Analysis: For Democrats To Benefit, Millennials Need To Turn Out At Higher Rates.
- + Under Trump, ACLU And SPLC See Big Increase In Workplace Donations.
- + Johnson, McCaskill Criticize Waste, Fraud In Low-Income Phone Program.
- + Google Hit With Gender Discrimination Lawsuit.
- + FTC Investigating Equifax Breach.
- + Obama Foundation Holds Outreach Meeting.
- + One Dead, Seven Injured In Ft. Bragg Training Accident.
- + Washington State School Shooter Posted Video Of Himself Acting Out Shootings.
- + Weiner's Attorneys Question Credibility, Motivation Of Sexting Victim.
- + Columnists Take Issue With Democrats' Questioning Of Barrett.
- + WPost: Kobach Is A Fraud, Not New Hampshire Voters.

Leading the News:

CBO PREDICTS HIGHER PREMIUMS FOR ACA PLANS, LOWER ENROLLMENT DUE TO TRUMP

POLICIES. The AP (9/14, Fram) reports that according to the Congressional Budget Office, average premiums for plans purchased through Affordable Care Act exchanges will increase by about 15 percent in 2018, mainly due to "marketplace nervousness over whether President Donald Trump will block federal subsidies to insurers." The article says Trump has "repeatedly threatened" to eliminate ACA subsidy payments to insurers as part of his effort to roll back the healthcare law. The CBO added that premiums will also rise because of the "growing numbers of people living in regions where only one insurer sells policies, therefore facing less competition."

The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that the insurance industry has "pleaded for more certainty on key ObamaCare payments called cost-sharing reduction subsidies, which reimburse them for giving discounts to low-income patients." While the Trump Administration has been making the "payments on a month-to-month basis...insurers want them funded on a long-term basis."

Reuters (9/14, Humer) reports the CBO is also predicting that enrollment in ACA plans for 2018 will be lower compared to previous years because of "the Trump administration's decision to pull back enrollment efforts." The article says the Administration has cut spending on advertising, shortened the open enrollment period by 50 percent, and reduced outreach. The piece adds that the CBO "now estimates that the average monthly enrollment on the exchanges will be about 11 million people, down about 4 million



from last year's forecast."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that the higher premiums will also "cause 2 million more people than expected to become uninsured between this year and next," the CBO predicted. The increases are expected to impact "people who don't have medical coverage through a job or the government and do not receive subsidies under Obamacare to pay for coverage."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Howell, 541K) reports that "premiums will rise an average of 5 percent a year over the next decade, much higher than the annual inflation rate," according to the CBO.

The <u>Hartford (CT) Courant</u> (9/14, Blair, 463K) reports that customers on Connecticut's health insurance exchange will pay premiums that are up to 31.7 percent higher, assuming President Trump ends the cost-sharing reductions.

Vox (9/14, Kliff, 1.54M) and Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/14, Levitz, 519K) also cover the story.

HHS CUTS FUNDING FOR SOME NAVIGATORS BY AS MUCH AS 85%. The Washington Post (9/14, Eilperin, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports HHS "officials have informed grass-roots groups that assist with enrollment under the Affordable Care Act that their funding will be reduced by as much as 85 percent, a move that could upend outreach efforts across the country." The Post adds that "the groups, which fund organizations known as 'navigators,' had been braced for the cuts since the Trump administration announced two weeks ago that it would shrink overall program funding by 41 percent and slash the department's ACA advertising budget from \$100 million to \$10 million." Advocates for navigators warn that the "deep cuts would undermine" enrollment efforts for 2018, but HHS has cast doubt on the value of the navigator program, and last month, HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley "issued a statement calling it 'ineffective' and saying that funding for this next enrollment period would be 'in proportion to their performance."

In a separate article, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, Soffen, Uhrmacher, 10.38M) reports states in the Midwest and the South will see the largest cuts to the outreach programs. The website posts an interactive state-by-state map to show the cuts. The piece says the burden of the cuts "will likely fall more on states that lean Republican" because several "blue states run their own marketplaces and fund their own navigator program, so they won't be affected by these federal cuts."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/15, King, 465K) reports that some navigators are facing budget cuts "of as much as 90 percent." The article added that some navigators questioned HHS' funding formula, and said that "they do a lot more than just sign up people for Obamacare, such as help consumers pick a plan and determine how to choose a doctor."

The <u>Columbus (OH) Dispatch</u> (9/14, Candisky, 456K) reports that one navigator in Ohio was "in an absolute state of shock" when it learned that its funding would be cut by 71 percent.

The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) also covers the story.

The Secretary in the News:

HHS SECRETARY PRICE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR OPIOID, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN VISIT TO NEW HAMPSHIRE. New Hampshire Public Radio (9/14, McDermott) reports that Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price visited a health center in Somersworth, New Hampshire, to announce \$200 million in federal grants to community health centers that the article said will "increase access to mental health and opioid abuse services." Secretary Price said, "The president has talked recently about raising the level of the opioid crisis to an emergency, and we're working on that with his staff, literally as we speak, to bring greater clarity and focus to that, and to bring greater enthusiasm, if you will, on the part of elected officials in Washington." Nine New Hampshire health centers and the city of Manchester will receive approximately \$175,000 apiece under the grants.



Mississippi Providers Get \$3M Federal Grant To Address Opioids. The Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger (9/14, Wolfe, 255K) reports that the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) granted over \$3 million targeted directly to 18 Mississippi health centers to address the opioid "super pandemic." HHS Secretary Tom Price said in a statement, "No corner of our country, from rural areas to urban centers, has escaped the scourge of the opioid crisis. ... These grants from HRSA go directly to local organizations, which are best situated to address substance abuse and mental health issues in their own communities." The article says health centers will use the funds to "expand and integrate mental health services and substance abuse services, in part by increasing personnel and training."

Minnesota Centers To Receive \$2.7 Million. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (9/14, Magan, 527K) reports that 16 health centers in Minnesota would receive \$2.7 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration "to combat the state's growing drug overdose crisis and improve residents' access to mental health services." Last week, state health officials announced drug overdose deaths climbed 9.2 percent in 2016 to 637 – and nearly 60 percent of them were from opioids, including heroin, prescription painkillers, and other synthetic drugs. Nationwide, the \$200 million will be spread across 1,178 health centers.

Colorado Clinics To Receive \$2.9 Million. The Denver Post (9/14, Brown, 817K) reports that 17 health centers in Colorado will receive \$2.9 million and expect to use the funds to expand "medication-assisted treatment" – using the drug buprenorphine-naloxone which reduces cravings and prevents people from "getting high should they relapse."

West Virginia Health Centers To Receive \$3.7 Million. The AP (9/15) reports that West Virginia Sens. Joe Manchin (D) and Shelley Moore Capito (R) announced that 22 health centers and rural health organizations will receive \$3.7 million in federal funds for increased addiction and mental health services. The senators add that the funds will be used for "personnel, information technology and training."

Secretary Price To Visit Pennsylvania Friday After Giving \$5 Million. The Wilkes-Barre (PA) Times Leader (9/14, O'Boyle, 115K) reports that Secretary Price and Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway will visit the Mirmont Treatment Center in the Philadelphia suburbs on Friday because, Price said, "it is state and local policymakers, advocates, first responders, law enforcement officers, treatment centers, and many more who have responded to help their communities in the areas of response and recovery in this time of great need." The visit comes after the HRSA announced Thursday that 32 Pennsylvania health centers will receive over \$5.3 million in grants to increase access to substance abuse and mental health services. The piece also discusses that Geisinger is set to open its second outpatient addiction clinic in Wilkes-Barre on September 18 and a third is scheduled to open in central Pennsylvania later this year.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING USING TAX REFORM TO DEFUND ACA. The Daily Caller (9/14, Donachie, 521K) reports that the Trump Administration is mulling "the idea of using tax reform as a tool to gut crucial features of Obamacare, a move that would appeal to Trump's base but could leave the health insurance marketplace in shambles." The article says HHS Secretary Tom Price and other Administration officials "met Sept. 7 in the Roosevelt Room at The White House to discuss their plans for tax reform, Axios reports." During the event, there was a discussion about "repealing Obamacare's medical device tax, the tax on health insurance plans and the individual mandate."

ADVOCATES URGE HHS TO REJECT MASSACHUSETTS' WAIVER REQUEST TO CUT MASSHEALTH TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS. The Springfield (MA) Republican (9/14, Schoenberg, 520K) reports that advocacy groups wrote a letter to US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price urging him to deny a waiver request by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) to eliminate coverage for non-emergency medical transportation to non-disabled adults earning more than 100 percent of the federal poverty level. The letter was signed by 28 groups – representing people with addiction, kidney disease, autism, epilepsy and others – who say beneficiaries use the benefit to get to their behavioral health appointments, dialysis treatments, and preventative services. A spokeswoman for



the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services said that the move will save \$5 million and that trips for substance abuse treatment will continue, as will transportation for those who are disabled.

OPINION: MACRA PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM CARE THROUGH ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS. Deloitte & Touche principal Anne Phelps writes in Modern Healthcare (9/15, Subscription Publication, 238K) that alternative payment models (APMs) such as medical homes, accountable care organizations, and bundled payments are improving states' Medicaid programs, and could provide an opportunity to move towards APMs in Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers, as well. Phelps mentions that both HHS Secretary Tom Price and CMS Administrator Seema Verma "have emphasized state flexibility and encouraged governors to apply for Medicaid section 1115 demonstration waivers to improve their programs." Phelps concludes that the focus should be on MACRA implementation, saying "[t]hese opportunities together could provide the financial incentive to reform and improve care delivery."

HHS in the News:

MEDICARE TO ISSUE NEW CARDS IN ANTI-FRAUD EFFORT. The AP (9/14, Neergaard) reports that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will begin mailing Medicare beneficiaries new cards in April that do not include social security numbers as part of an effort to fight identity theft. Seema Verma explained that "criminals are increasingly targeting people age 65 and older for medical identity theft." Congress has set an April 2019 deadline for all beneficiaries to have received the new design – which was revealed Thursday.

NPR (9/14, Kodjak, 2.4M) reports that instead of social security numbers, the new cards will have "a randomly generated sequence of 11 numbers and letters." The AARP has long advocated for the change and recommends to seniors "not to carry their original Medicare card but only a copy with the last four digits of their Social Security number blotted out." Congress has allocated \$242 million for the update.

The Washington Times (9/14, Howell, 541K) reports that the new cards will go out to all 58 million Medicare enrollees by 2019. The piece quotes CMS Administrator Seema Verma as saying, "This is going to help our beneficiaries fight identify theft, keep taxpayer dollars safe and always keep the needs of patients first."

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (9/14, 236K) also covers the story.

GOTTLIEB: FDA IS FOCUSED ON BOOSTING COMPETITION TO ADDRESS DRUG PRICES. Politico (9/14, Diamond, 3.6M) reports FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told Politico's Pro Policy Summit on Thursday that his agency is focused on increasing pharmaceutical competition to reduce drug prices. Gottlieb said, "We think about it from the standpoint of competition, trying to facilitate competition," noting that the FDA is targeting generic drugs as away to address cost and access issues. He added that the agency has focused on increasing competition for a while, but is now working on being more transparent about those internal deliberations.

FDA APPROVES BIOSIMILAR VERSION OF BEVACIZUMAB. Reuters (9/14, Clarke) reports that yesterday, the FDA "said...it has approved" a "biosimilar version of" Avastin (bevacizumab).

The <u>San Francisco Business Times</u> (9/14, Leuty, Subscription Publication, 904K) reports that in a press release, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said, "Bringing new biosimilars to patients, especially for diseases where the cost of existing treatments can be high, is an important way to help spur competition that can lower health care costs and increase access to important therapies."

<u>Medscape</u> (9/14, Chustecka, 226K) reports, "Like the reference product, the biosimilar bevacizumab is approved for use in several types of cancer, including metastatic colorectal cancer, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), renal cell carcinoma, cervical cancer, and glioblastoma."



FDA APPROVES COPANLISIB TO TREAT FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA. Reuters (9/14, Clarke) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved Bayer AG's Aliqopa (copanlisib) for the treatment of follicular lymphoma. The drug is "a kinase inhibitor that blocks certain enzymes that promote cell growth" and is "designed for patients who have received at least two prior treatments." The agency granted accelerated approval based upon a clinical trial in which 59 percent of patients "experienced a complete or partial shrinkage of their tumors for a median 12.2 months."

<u>MedPage Today</u> (9/14, Gever, 60K) reports that Richard Pazdur, MD, acting director of the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in the FDA's drugs division, said, "Options are limited for [relapsed] patients and today's approval provides an additional choice for treatment, filling an unmet need for them."

PAULSEN: FDA NEEDS TO BE MODERNIZED. Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) writes in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that the FDA is in need of modernization. The scope of the agency "has grown considerably in recent decades, with the agency having jurisdiction over a vast spectrum of products" ranging from vaccines and prescription drugs, to sunscreen and tobacco products. A key area in need of reform is the "current timeline surrounding prescription drug and vaccine approvals." Paulsen warns that "bureaucratic delays in the approval process can have tragic consequences." Additionally, the approval process for generic medications comes "at far too slow of a pace under current practices." Paulsen advocates for a "policy of reciprocity approval with 'A-list' foreign counterparts" and granting more "accelerated approvals" for "serious or life-threatening" diseases for which there is an "unmet medical need." Paulsen also writes that he opposes funding cuts to the NIH, but recognize "there are significant ways to better prioritize how research dollars are spent."

FDA APPROVES APP TO TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE. CNBC (9/14, McCann, 3.48M) reports the FDA on Thursday approved for the first time a "mobile to help treat substance abuse disorders." Start-up company Pear Therapeutics developed the app, which "digitizes...cognitive behavioral therapy" and "is designed to be prescribed by clinician and used alongside counseling."

Fortune (9/14, Mukherjee, 1.51M) reports the "Reset" app is "cleared to assist in outpatient therapy for alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and stimulant addiction," but "is notably not permitted for treating opioid dependence." According to the article, clinical studies showed "more than 40% of patients who used the Reset system in addition to standard therapy abstained from alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, and stimulant substance abuse over a three month period," versus only 17.6% of those receiving "standard therapy alone."

<u>HealthDay</u> (9/14, Roberts, 11K) reports Carlos Peña, Ph.D., director of the FDA's Division of Neurological and Physical Medicine Devices, said the app "is an example of how innovative digital technologies can help provide patients access to additional tools during their treatment." The article also mentions that the FDA, citing SAMHSA, defines substance abuse disorder as when chronic substance use causes "significant impairment, such as health problems, disability and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school or home."

NEW PRODUCT CLAIMS IT MAY REDUCE PEANUT ALLERGIES IN INFANTS. The New York Times (9/14, Rabin, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "Well" reports a new powered peanut product, called Hello, Peanut, "is the first food item allowed to claim it may reduce peanut allergies in infants, though parents of susceptible babies are urged to consult a doctor before trying it." The FDA allowed the product "to make the claim just months after the nation's top allergy experts reversed longstanding advice on preventing peanut allergies, dropping recommendations to withhold all peanut-containing foods in early childhood in favor of early, frequent exposure." Officials said this is the first time a food product label is allowed to make a "qualified claim that it reduces the risk of an allergy." FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said, "The guidelines for how to approach allergens in children are changing, the science is changing, and it's important for parents to know." The availability of these products "should make it easier for parents to implement the new approach to preventing peanut allergies, which have increased in prevalence in recent years." Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said, "People who don't have children with these allergies don't always appreciate the very real



danger of a deleterious event that might even lead to death, but even more important, the extraordinary anxiety that pervades the families of children with documented peanut allergies who are afraid of exposing their children."

HOUSE \$1.2 TRILLION SPENDING BILL ADDS \$9 BILLION IN NIH FUNDING. The AP (9/14, Taylor) reports the House of Representatives on Thursday "passed a sweeping \$1.2 trillion spending bill that provides billions more dollars for the military while sparing medical research and popular community development programs from deep cuts sought by President Donald Trump." Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) said, "It does everything from strengthening our national defense and veterans' programs to cracking down on illegal immigration to protecting life to cutting abusive Washington agencies like the IRS and the EPA." The bill adds nearly \$9 billion to Trump's funding request for medical research at the National Institutes of Health, "rather than accepting sharp cuts recommended by Trump." Science Magazine (9/14, Malakoff, 399K) also covers the story.

DOGS PARTICIPATING IN CLINICAL TRIALS OF IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY TREATMENTS. Forbes (9/14, Weintraub, 5.11M) contributor Arlene Weintraub reports that the "idea of involving pets that develop cancer naturally in clinical trials of new treatments is gaining stream in cancer research." Domesticated cats and dogs "develop many of the same cancers people do," so they offer an "opportunity to preview immune-boosting treatments in species that are very much like us, both in their genetic makeup and in how they experience cancer." The National Cancer Institute supports this research, "and last year it solicited funding applications from scientists interested in performing clinical trials of immuno-oncology treatments in dogs."

IMMUNOTHERAPY TRIALS INCREASED IN POPULARITY SINCE "FALSE DAWN" OF IL-2. The Economist (9/15, 846K) reports that the discovery of interleukin 2 (IL-2) in 1976 was a "false dawn" in immunotherapy because "it activated the immune system indiscriminately, and the immune system is a powerful beast." Elad Sharon, at the National Cancer Institute's division of treatment and diagnosis, said the effects were "toxic and messy, and frequently sent patients to the ICU." Immunotherapy was "in exile" for many years, but in 1999, "Tasuku Honjo of the University of Kyoto, in Japan, showed that the gene for a protein called PD-1 also seemed to tamp down the immune system." Later evidence would suggest that "checkpoint inhibitors could also get results with lung cancers, which are a much bigger killer than, and thus represent a much larger market than, malignant melanomas." The field of immunotherapy is still new, but "it has already radically shifted the treatment and research landscape."

CURRENT ANTI-CANCER TECHNOLOGY EVOLVING TO BETTER TREAT PATIENTS. The Economist (9/14, 846K) reports on how anti-cancer technology has evolved to better treat patients. Locating targets for cancer therapies "has been made far easier by the sequencing of the human genome and the remarkable reductions in the cost of sequencing DNA which followed on from it." According to The Economist, "hundreds of thousands of cancers have now been sequenced, and the hunt for targets is seeing diminishing returns." Much work is now "focused not on finding new targets but on second-generation drugs aimed at targets that have already proved vulnerable; these newer drugs aim for higher efficacy, lower side effects or, ideally, both." Louis Staudt, director of the center for cancer genomics at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) "says about 1-3% of cases of lung cancer are driven by a ROS1 mutation. Dr Staudt is working on a repository for genomic information called the NCI Genomic Data Commons, which hopes to identify more low-frequency drivers of cancer."

PROBLEM DRINKING RISING FAST AMONG OLDER AMERICANS, NIAAA RESEARCHERS FIND. In the New York Times (9/14, Span, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The New Old Age" blog, Paula Span writes, "Epidemiologists at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism...reported" that "problem drinking is rising fast among older Americans." Researchers arrived at that conclusion after comparing "data from a national survey taken in 2001 and 2002 and again in 2012 and 2013, each time with about 40,000 adults." The findings were published in the September issue of JAMA Psychiatry. The author of an accompanying editorial observed, "The trajectory over time is remarkable." Lead study author and NIAAA epidemiologist Bridget Grant, PhD, and her "team didn't investigate causes" for late-life drinking, "but she speculates that anxiety caused by the recession, which hit right between the two surveys, may have played a part."



CDC DIRECTOR WARNS OF POST-HURRICANE DANGERS. The AP (9/14) reports that US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Brenda Fitzgerald warns "the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma can be just as dangerous as the storms themselves." The article describes several of the greatest post-storm dangers, including "heat and humidity," electrocution, and "debris removal and cleanup hazards."

REDUCTION IN HHS, CMS HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETING BUDGETS WILL IMPACT NORTH TEXAS HEALTHCARE GROUPS. The D Healthcare Daily (TX) (9/14, Nguyen) reports that in response to HHS and CMS announcing reductions in their health-insurance marketing budgets, "Dallas-Fort Worth healthcare groups say the cuts will directly impact the North Texas market, as marketing and patient navigation organizations are affected by funding reductions." W. Steve Love, president and CEO of the DFW Hospital Council, called the decision "shocking and disappointing." He added, "Locally, we have been fortunate to have community-based patient navigators in Dallas, Tarrant, and surrounding counties. The hospitals also have patient navigators to [help] eligible beneficiaries enroll in the health insurance marketplace." Love said he hopes HHS will reverse the funding reductions.

AHRQ, PCORI TO AWARD GRANTS FOR LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM TRAINING AND RESEARCH. EHR Intelligence (9/14, Monica) reports that the Agency of Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) are partnering "to award grants of up to \$8 million" to "as many as ten" career development programs "for training clinician and research scientists to conduct research about learning health systems." In a statement on the National Institute of Health (NIH) website, AHRQ said, "The Learning Health System is a model in which both institutional and clinical practice partners are actively engaged and participate in the generation, adoption, and application of evidence."

Health Reform:

TRUMP CRITICIZES SANDERS' SINGLE-PAYER PROPOSAL, CALLS IT "A CURSE ON THE US." TIME (9/14, Abrams, 5.85M) reports that on Thursday, President Trump "attacked Bernie Sanders' single-player health care plan on Thursday, calling it a 'curse on the U.S.'" Trump tweeted, "Bernie Sanders is pushing hard for a single payer healthcare plan – a curse on the U.S. & its people. ... I told Republicans to approve healthcare fast or this would happen. But don't worry, I will veto because I love our country & its people." The article says Sanders responded to the tweets, "saying that single-payer health care is what he believes the government should be doing," and he criticized a GOP ACA repeal plan "from earlier this year that would have cut costs and caused millions to lose their health insurance."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that President Trump will "never get the chance to veto the bill, because it's never going to reach his desk during this current session of Congress."

The Hill (9/14, Carter, 1.68M) reports that Sanders tweeted in response to Trump, "No Mr. President, providing health care to every man, woman and child as a right is not a curse, it's exactly what we should be doing." He added, "What is a curse is your support for throwing 23 million off health insurance. That's the curse and we won't allow you to get away with it."

Politico (9/14, 3.6M) reports that Trump is still urging Republicans to repeal and replace the ACA, even though they "have spent months trying and failing to pass such legislation."

The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that Sanders unveiled his "Medicare for All" plan on Wednesday "with the support of 16 Senate Democrats, more support than he's ever received for single-payer bills he has proposed in the past."

<u>NBC News</u> (9/14, Seitz-Wald, 3.46M) reports on its website that Trump's "veto threat is aimed at raising the profile of Sanders and his movement to use them against more moderate Democrats, especially those...running for re-election in states Trump won next year."



The Washington Examiner (9/14, Giaritelli, 465K) and the Los Angeles Times (9/14, Decker, 4.49M) also cover the story.

TRUMP SAYS MCCAIN'S VOTE AGAINST THE SENATE'S ACA REPEAL BILL LED TO SANDERS' SINGLE-PAYER PROPOSAL. U.S. News & World Report (9/14, Levy, 1.73M) says President Trump "blamed the new momentum among Democrats to push for a single-payer health care system on one man": Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). The article says Trump accused McCain of causing "a split in the Republican party's resolve to repeal the Affordable Care Act when he voted against a plan to repeal parts of the health care law." Trump is quoted as saying on Thursday, "We had a surprise from John McCain, and we had the vote and then John McCain came out of nowhere. ... It was a very unpleasant surprise, and now what are we looking at? We have people now talking about single-payer, and that's what we get."

The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports that Trump "still holds a grudge against" McCain because of the senator's vote against Senate Republicans' ACA repeal bill.

GRAHAM URGES TRUMP TO FOCUS ON ACA REPEAL AHEAD OF RECONCILIATION DEADLINE.

Politico (9/14, Nelson, 3.6M) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham said yesterday that President Trump's "attention should be on repealing and replacing Obamacare, not forging a deal with Democrats on immigration and border security," because "time is quickly running out for Republicans to make good on their long-held pledge to" repeal the ACA. Politico adds that "because of the Senate's parliamentary rules regarding reconciliation...GOP senators have only until the end of the month to pass repeal-and-replace legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes." After that, "any repeal and replace bill would be forced to clear the Senate's typical 60-vote threshold, an all but impossible ask." Graham and Sen. Bill Cassidy have "proposed a last-ditch repeal-and-replace bill that would block grant all of the money spent by the federal government on Obamacare back to the states."

Cassidy was asked on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K) what he would like the President to do to help advance his healthcare bill. Cassidy said, "We need, obviously, the CBO to score more rapidly, and we will be speaking to our individual senators to get on board the bill. We've already begun those discussions, very promising. And we need governors. ... The President can help with all that."

SEN. BARRASSO WANTS CBO TO SCORE SANDERS' "MEDICARE FOR ALL" PROPOSAL. The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) wants the Congressional Budget Office "to analyze the cost of Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) 'Medicare for all' bill, which could fuel Republican attacks that a single-payer system would bankrupt the country." Barrasso wrote to the CBO, saying he is "deeply concerned that Senator Sanders' Medicare-for-All legislation is not only a government takeover of health care, but would also put financial burdens on the American people that they cannot sustain." He mentioned a 2016 estimate by the Urban Institute which indicated "a previous plan from Sanders would cost \$32 trillion over 10 years."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that Barrasso also said in his letter that Sanders' single-payer proposal "is being sold as a new health system paid for completely by the government, with no restrictions and at no cost to the patient. ... Of course, such a system would be anything but free to the American taxpayer."

GROWING SUPPORT FOR SINGLE-PAYER AMONG DEMS SHOWS SANDERS' INFLUENCE IN THE PARTY. Roll Call (9/14, Williams, 134K) reports, "The seismic shift in support for Sen. Bernie Sanders' plan to transform the U.S. health care system into a single-payer program" demonstrates the influence Sanders has in the Democratic Party. The article says Sanders is attempting to define the party's future, and his bill is supported by several "2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls." The piece adds that the proposal has "also provided a welcome talking point for Republicans who have long railed against government-run health care."

SANDERS REPORTEDLY FAILS TO EXPLAIN HOW HIS SINGLE-PAYER PLAN WILL BE FUNDED.



Vann R. Newkirk II writes in <u>The Atlantic</u> (9/14, 1.64M) that support for Sanders' bill "is unprecedented, both in the scope – it would in essence nationalize one-sixth of the largest economy in world history – and in seriousness." While "the initiative is almost certainly doomed over the course of the next few iterations of Congress, it's now a rallying point, one its creators and sponsors aim to make the center of Democratic policymaking for years to come." Newkirk points out, however, that Sanders failed to explain precisely how the bill will be funded, which is crucial. He argues that "while relegating the less sexy, and much more controversial funding elements to the background is perhaps politically pragmatic, putting it off can only hurt the policy in the long run."

ANALYSIS: AMERICANS ARE "AMBIVALENT" ABOUT SINGLE-PAYER, NOT "CLAMORING" FOR IT AS SANDERS CONTENDS. In an analysis piece, the AP (9/14, Woodward, Swanson) reports that consumers "are not clamoring for single-payer health care, as Sen. Bernie Sanders suggests they are, in proposing a plan that would have the government foot most medical bills." The article says that while support for single-payer has grown markedly, polls indicate that "the prevailing sentiment is ambivalence." That is because while the prospect of saving money on healthcare costs is attractive, raising taxes "to cover those costs may dull the appetite."

David Weigel writes in the Washington Post (9/14, Weigel, 10.38M) "Power Post" blog that Sanders has enlisted Canadians to his cause and invited Danielle Martin, a Toronto physician and academic, to his podcast for a 32-minute interview. The piece quotes Sanders' push for his single-payer plan: "For decades, every man, woman and child in Canada has been guaranteed health care through a single-payer, publicly funded health care program" which has "not only improved the lives of the Canadian people but has also saved families and businesses an immense amount of money."

NUMBER OF UNINSURED VETERANS WOULD INCREASE IF ACA WERE REPEALED, STUDY INDICATES. Stars And Stripes (9/14, Wentling, 8K) reports that according to the Rand Corp., the American Health Care Act, which House Republicans passed in May, "would increase the number of aging, sick and low-income veterans without insurance and put pressure on an overburdened Veterans Affairs system." Data show 9.1 percent of veterans under the age of 65 were uninsured in 2013. That figure dropped to 5.8 percent in 2015, thanks to Medicaid expansion under the ACA. The study concluded that repealing the ACA "would reverse those gains."

HEALTHCARE DEBATE BECOMES PART OF BALDWIN'S BID FOR RE-ELECTION NEXT YEAR. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/14, Glauber, 628K) reports that Sen. Tammy Baldwin's (D-WI) "embrace this week of 'Medicare for All' drew immediate criticism from her" GOP challengers, businessman Kevin Nicholson (R) and state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R). However, Nicholson "may discover that in next year's Republican primary, the health care debate could cut both ways. Seventeen years ago, Nicholson was president of the College Democrats of America" at a time when the national party "passed

a...platform that included a section supporting universal health coverage." The paper says that Nicholson and Vukmir have done some mild sparring over "conservative credentials" in the GOP race.

CUTS TO OUTREACH EFFORTS MAY IMPACT LOW-INCOME IOWANS WHO PURCHASE ACA PLANS. The Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette (9/14, Murphy, 147K) reports that the Trump Administration recently said it would significantly cut funding "for advertising and staffing designated to help individuals sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act...saying previous funding levels were extraneous." This means low-income lowans who purchase individual plans through the ACA exchange "may not have as much help as in recent years, health care officials and experts warn." The article says local healthcare officials are worried "the reduction will hamper efforts to reach low-income lowans who wish to obtain health insurance under the federal program, or to educate those who may not be aware they are eligible for the program and its financial assistance."

ACA HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NUMBER OF INSURED, CENSUS DATA INDICATE. The Washington Post (9/14, Bump, 10.38M) reports that according to data from the Census Bureau, the US uninsured rate was 8.6 percent in 2016. That figure was 14.5 percent in 2013, which means last year's rate represents a 40 percent decline. The article says this means some 19 million Americans have gained access to healthcare coverage. However, there are significant differences "between those states that took



advantage of the ACA's expansion of Medicaid and those that didn't." Typically, "states that expanded Medicaid at the outset now have an uninsured rate of about 6.1 percent, a decline of 5.9 percentage points since 2013." By comparison, more than 10 percent of the population is uninsured in states which did not expand Medicaid.

SINGLE-PAYER PLAN SIMILAR TO SANDERS' "FAILED...REALLY BADLY" IN COLORADO. Dylan Matthews writes in a Vox (9/14, 1.54M) piece that last November, Colorado voters "rejected a ballot measure to enact a state-based single-payer system by an astounding margin of 79 percent to 21 percent." The measure, Amendment 69, "would have created a system in which all Coloradans would gain insurance through a tax-funded government insurance program," thus rendering private health insurers obsolete. Matthews adds that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" proposal is similar to Amendment 69, which "failed – really, really, really badly."

SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HOPES TO COMPLETE ACA STABILIZATION MEASURE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK. The Hill (9/14, Roubein, 1.68M) reports the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee "intends to craft a bipartisan bill to stabilize the insurance markets by early next week, enabling the full Senate to pass it by the end of the month," according to chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN). The article says Alexander announced this goal on Thursday during the committee's fourth hearing about how to stabilize ACA marketplaces. The piece adds that the bill is likely to include funding for cost-sharing reduction payments, more flexibility for states, and increased access to lower-cost plans.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports that according to Alexander, "appropriating funds to insurers to help ease the cost of Obamacare premiums was a reasonable tradeoff for a bill that would give states flexibility." He stated, "To get a result, Republicans will have to agree to do something, additional funding through the Affordable Care Act, that some are reluctant to support. And Democrats will have to agree to something, more flexibility for states, that some may be reluctant to support."

<u>Modern Healthcare</u> (9/14, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that Alexander did not mention adding a new reinsurance program in his comments, adding that GOP conservatives "strongly oppose" such a measure.

SOME DEMS WILLING TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO ACA'S INDIVIDUAL MANDATE. Morning Consult (9/14, Reid) reports some Democrats "are willing to look at alternatives to the mandate that requires most Americans to obtain health insurance or pay a penalty." The article says there is "some Republican support" for those alternatives. The piece adds that Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) "have expressed interest in automatically enrolling uninsured Americans in a low-cost insurance plan, a proposal that was included in one Republican plan to repeal Obamacare earlier this year." Meanwhile, "10 moderate House Democrats raised auto-enrollment as a potential tool to increase coverage and stabilize the Obamacare exchanges in a health care proposal released in July."

BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS WORKING ON ACA STABILIZATION BILL STILL AT ODDS. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Leonard, 465K) reports Senate HELP committee members hope "to ease rising premiums and insurer exits from Obamacare in the face of a tight deadline," but "they aren't certain if Senate leaders will up take the proposal in time or if it would receive a warm welcome in the House or from President Trump." The article says the lawmakers are also "divided in their goals: Democrats want to inject more funding into the exchanges so that premiums will drop, while Republicans seek to give states more flexibility over their healthcare systems." The panel's chairman, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), "said he hopes that committee members can agree to the trade-off as a compromise."

OP-ED SAYS INSURERS MAY BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE WITH SANDERS ON SINGLE-PAYER. Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/14, 5.11M) piece that the largest insurance companies in the US "don't want to see their role diminished as a manager of health benefits for seniors and therefore oppose Bernie Sanders 'Medicare for All' single payer health plan." However, Japsen adds that the companies seem "open to offering the liberal Vermont Senator a path to expanding coverage if it involves bolstering private Medicare Advantage plans, which insurers sell to seniors via contracts with the federal government."



SPONSORS OF LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL SEEK TO GARNER SUPPORT AMONG COLLEAGUES.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, King, 465K) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) "are working to convince their colleagues to support their last-ditch effort to gut Obamacare." They "met with the Republican conference Thursday as part of a luncheon." The article says this event "is among a series of opening moves the senators are making to muster support from 46 other Republicans before a deadline at the end of the month."

REP. LOUIE GOHMERT PUSHING SENATORS TO PASS ACA REPEAL BILL BEFORE MONTH'S END. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Kasperowicz, 465K) reports that Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) "said he and other Republicans will pressure the Senate to pass some kind of Obamacare repeal bill before the end of the month, before the Senate loses its chance to pass a bill with just a simple majority, without help from Democrats." The lawmaker "said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is also interested in putting pressure on the Senate when they return" from a one-week recess.

SENATOR GOP WHIPPING SUPPORT FOR GRAHAM-CASSIDY ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/14, Carney, 1.68M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) is measuring support for a new bill by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "to repeal and replace ObamaCare as lawmakers head toward an end-of-the-month deadline." When asked about the vote counting, Cornyn said, "...my hope is we'll get that preliminary information back in the next few days."

NEW MEXICO OFFICIALS SAY STATE INSURANCE MARKET HAS STABILIZED. Santa Fe New Mexican (9/14, Krasnow, 42K) reports that according to New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance John Franchini, health insurance rates on the state's Affordable Care Act are set to rise between 17 percent and 20 percent and will be finalized Friday. Franchini said the state insurance market has stabilized as four insurance providers will be offering plans in 2018, despite federal policy uncertainties.

SOUTH CAROLINA INSURANCE CHIEF URGES CONGRESS TO FUND CSR PAYMENTS. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (9/14, Wildeman, 269K) reports South Carolina Department of Insurance Director Ray Farmer testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions on Thursday, "urg[ing] U.S. senators to continue funding payments to make insurance more affordable for those buying on the private market." Farmer, a critic of the Affordable Care Act, encouraged Congress to renew the cost-sharing reduction program, saying it is, "The best option is for the federal government to pay its obligations under law."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Numerous outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (9/15, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) column that President Trump wants Congress to quickly pass a tax reform plan, but he has not offered them a proposal. Krugman says, "The story of tax reform – actually, given the likely content of whatever legislative proposal may finally emerge, we should call it tax 'reform' – is starting to look a bit similar" to the ACA one. He argues that Republicans were dishonest about the ACA, and that allowed them to gain control of both chambers of Congress and the White House, but when "the public realized that tens of millions would lose coverage under Republican plans, there was a huge backlash; that backlash may give Democrats the House next year, despite all the gerrymandering and other structural disadvantages they face."

Tom Toles writes in The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) that despite multiple attempts by Republicans to stop the Affordable Care Act, the dynamic that "health care as a citizen right has taken root in the United States." The GOP is "caught in a trap" of either working to "fix and extend Obamacare, which they as yet show no signs of doing, or let it fail and demolish coverage that people want and now expect – leaving single-payer as the clear, understandable, popular alternative."

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) that the Trump Administration "continues to sabotage the Affordable Care Act by refusing to guarantee the cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments that insurers rely upon to offset lost revenue from providing subsidies to low-



income individuals." This antagonistic attitude furthers the instability in the insurance markets, which in turn will be "felt by thousands of Virginians."

Jennifer Rubin writes for the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) in its "Right Turn" blog warning against letting Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) "pull the wool over the eyes of Democrats the way Trump snookered the whole country" on promises of "wonderful" healthcare. Rubin cites Jonathan Chait who warns, "Designing a single-payer system means not only covering the uninsured, but financing the cost of moving the 155 million Americans who have employer-based insurance onto Medicare. That is not a detail to be worked out. It is the entire problem."

Catherine Rampell writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) that in their push for single-payer healthcare, Democrats will "abandon thoughtful, detail-oriented bean-counting" and instead "chant virtue-signaling catchphrases." Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" bill had 16 co-sponsors who "had to sign on" as single-payer "is rapidly evolving into a litmus test for Democrats." More than a catch phrase, Rampell writes that shifting to single-payer "involves painful political choices, sharp tax hikes and some degree of buy-in from the many stakeholders who are going to get shafted in the transition." On this and other major questions, Rampell says "the Sanders plan punts."

Eugene Robinson writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, 10.38M) that what Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for all" idea has going for it is that "It's the right thing to do." Robinson writes that the question now "is whether Democrats will continue to settle for half-measures or finally demand what the party has claimed to want for decades."

The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes on the ACA replacement bill unveiled this week by Sens. Graham and Sen. Cassidy. The Journal says that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country's healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing the ACA. Moreover, the Journal warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

In an editorial, <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/14, 4.52M) writes that Democrats have an opening to "advance ideas for building on the gains accomplished by the Affordable Care Act," but Sen. Bernie Sanders' [I-VT] proposed single-payer system "is unwise both on the merits and as a matter of political strategy." Bloomberg View calls Sanders' proposal "needlessly radical," and instead argues that "a better way to extend health insurance to 28.1 million Americans who still need it is to take incremental steps – starting with the bipartisan effort to shore up the ACA now under way in the Senate."

Writing in the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, 465K), Philip Klein dismisses Sen. Bernie Sanders' single-payer proposal as "a complete joke" that does not "describe how he would expect to pay for this ambitious idea or deal with massive disruption it would mean for businesses, workers, and those trying to access care." Klein says that if "Sanders wanted to demonstrate that single-payer is closer to reality, he would have grappled with the real obstacles to his vision," instead of releasing a bill "that is nothing more than liberal fan service."

Matthew Yglesias writes in Vox (9/14, 1.54M) that Medicare-for-all legislation is deliberately a "very high bid" that is "unlikely to be enacted by any realistic political coalition." But, while the "roadblocks to a single-payer health care system are very large," Yglesias says they are "fundamentally different from" the GOP push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, because the latter is a "con job" that attempted to "bridge a fundamentally unbridgeable gap between the American people's complaints about the ACA – premiums, deductibles, and copayments that were too high – and the Republican Party donor class's complaints about the ACA: that it levied too much in taxes."

Newt Gingrich and Tom Daschle write in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that Section 1332 waivers give states flexibility to bypass some of the ACA's "requirements and to help develop localized ways to lower health-care costs, broaden coverage and improve treatment in their states." The former Congressional leaders say that "expanding this flexibility...could be the key to unlocking some of the partisan gridlock surrounding health-care reform."



Dr. Deane Waldman and Jennifer Minjarez, the director and a policy analyst with the Center for Health Care Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, write in The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) that that states can apply for three waivers to "get relief from ObamaCare's expensive mandates." They argue that in "the absence of effective national healthcare reform, reform at the state level with waivers can circumvent oppressive federal mandates and allow the states, who know local needs and constraints best, to allocate resources optimally."

Paige Winfield Cunningham writes in The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) "The Health 202" that US lawmakers do not seem "especially interested in borrowing from the range of" healthcare approaches "taken by other countries like, say, France, Japan or the Netherlands, which have achieved near-universal health coverage and whose systems enjoy much greater public favor." Republicans are instead focusing on "repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with bills that would cover far fewer people and are deeply unpopular," while Democrats support single-payer plans "that Republican will surely block."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, 5.74M) contributor Richard Eskow writes that when nearly one-third of Senate Democrats "are saying health care is a human right and a public good," it is "a declaration of principle." Eskow says Medicare for All is symbolic of all "health activism fronts, and all of them can be perused with a single, unifying goal in mind."

Michael Tanner writes for the New York Post (9/14, 4.31M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" a single-payer plan "would put government firmly in charge" of healthcare. The plan is "long on promises," but "independent analysts suggest it will cost at least \$1.4 trillion per year" and "most Americans will be worse off" from tax hikes and job losses, Tanner writes.

Jonathan Bernstein writes for <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/14, 4.52M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders single-payer health care plan has "few details and only vague ideas about financing," but it is nonetheless changing the Democratic Party. Sanders' bill and the support it has drawn "is best seen as a part of that evercontinuing fight over what the party will really stand for," and single-payer "has a lot of work ahead to be more than a rallying cry, the only way it's going to get that work is if it's a party priority."

Dr. Sanjeev K. Sriram writes for the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, 5.74M) lamenting racial and geographic disparities in insurance coverage. "Medicare For All" would mean "peace of mind" and that "we are finally committing to health care as a basic human right, no matter what you earn, no matter where you live, and no matter what you look like."

Kevin Campbell writes for the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, 465K) that with "reimbursement cuts are on the horizon," the medical lobby, including the American Medical Association, is "playing a big role yet again in determining healthcare policy and payments to physicians." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the AMA "often overlook compelling outcome and economic data," Campbell writes, criticizing potential reimbursement rate cuts to cardiovascular medical devices.

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (9/14, 381K) editorializes that President Trump and Republicans "failed to come up with a viable plan to repeal and replace the ACA, and some seemed to lose their enthusiasm for the misguided crusade after their efforts fell short." The latest repeal bill "seems little more than one more desperate attempt on the part of Republicans to do away with Obamacare, which they despise for its success."

Greg Bell writes for the <u>Deseret (UT) News</u> (9/14, 381K) that Republicans in Congress "fumbled repeal and replace in spectacular fashion" as they "had not developed an alternative." Bell faults Congressional Republicans for "not hold[ing] the mounting deficit up to the nation as an essential reason to undo Obamacare entitlements."

Opioid News:



OPINION: PHYSICIANS CONTRIBUTED TO, NOW NEED TO HELP REVERSE, THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC. Dr. Peter Pronovost, an anesthesiologist and Johns Hopkins Medicine senior vice president, writes in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Pronovost, 6.45M) that over-prescription by physicians for postsurgical recovery and pain, combined with unused opioid pills, contributed to the opioid epidemic. Dr. Pronovost suggests physicians take a more precise approach to prescribing medications for pain which may include avoiding opioids altogether or lowering the number of pills prescribed. He also urges physicians to counsel patients on proper disposal of unused pills.

PROSECUTORS SAY INSYS FOUNDER IS AN UNINDICTED CO-CONSPIRATOR IN OPIOID CASE. Reuters (9/14, Raymond) reports that court documents reveal federal prosecutors have identified Insys Therapeutics Inc.'s billionaire founder, John Kapoor, as one of 80 "unindicted co-conspirators" in their case against six former executives and managers accused of participating in a scheme of bribing physicians to prescribe their fentanyl-based drug. Kapoor's attorney responded that his client has not been charged and that "he's made extensive efforts to improve the situation at the company." The defendants have pleaded not guilty and the trial is scheduled to begin in October 2018.

INDIANA BEGINS DATA COLLECTION, SHARING INITIATIVE TO COMBAT OPIOID CRISIS. Wired (9/14, Lapowsky, 1.62M) reports Indiana, which has been impacted "hard" by the opioid crisis and "was among a handful of states whose opioid prescriptions roughly equaled its population," recently launched an online opioid data center for law enforcement and medical services to collaborate in sharing data and assist policymakers in understanding the scope of the crisis. Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) has pushed the initiative, which features information including statistics on "drug arrests, drug seizures, death records, pharmacy robberies, overdose-related ambulance calls, and the use of naloxone," as well as the implementation of "data-visualization tools...so agencies providing the data can log in and observe trends over time." The program includes about 16 government agencies. Donald Burke, dean of the Graduate School of Public Health at University of Pittsburgh who commented on the initiative, "says funding for the federal agencies that sponsor this kind of research – the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – has fallen over the last decade."

Healthcare Fraud:

OPINION: MEDICAID AGENCIES NOT DOING ENOUGH TO STOP FRAUD. James Swann writes on the Bloomberg BNA (9/14, 2K) "Health Care Blog" that according to a recent Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General report, 41 out of 56 Medicaid agencies imposed 10 or fewer payment suspensions in 2014. Swann says that payment suspensions can be "effective in stopping fraudulent Medicaid providers," but having so few allows "money to continue flowing to providers under investigation for potentially defrauding the Medicaid program." Swann quotes Ellyn Sternfield, a Washington, DC, healthcare attorney, as explaining about agencies' conduct, "Most Medicaid fraud investigators I know will bend over backwards not to let a suspect know they are under investigation for a particular practice and will want the program to forgo the suspension during the duration of any investigation."

Healthcare News:

AUTHORITIES CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA NURSING HOME WHERE EIGHT DIED. The Washington Post (9/14, Berman, 10.38M) reports that of the eight residents who died at a Hollywood, Florida nursing home that "lost its air conditioning" in the wake of Hurricane Irma, "at least one of them died Tuesday, several hours before authorities say they were alerted to the crisis...early Wednesday morning." The finding, the Post says, adds to the uncertainty surrounding the facility and how events devolved "to such an extent that several patients died and more than 100 others were" evacuated to hospitals.

<u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Madhani, 8.62M) reports that operators of the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills received repeated admonishments from "state and federal officials for" failing to meet "federally-mandated"



standards for patient care and for dubious billing practices." The article adds that the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on Wednesday "announced it was temporarily closing" the nursing home. According to USA Today, the AHCA "cited the nursing home for 11 health deficiencies" in its last inspection and for "17 infractions" in 2016, leading to \$5,500 in fines.

Citing AHCA spokesperson Mallory McManus, the <u>South Florida Sun Sentinel</u> (9/14, McMahon, Bryan, Hobbs, Pesantes, 530K) reports that "despite filing four status updates on Monday and Tuesday, the nursing home never reported to a state health department online database that patients were at risk." McManus said in an email, "At no time did the facility report that conditions had become dangerous."

Reuters (9/14, Oliphant) reports that on Thursday police obtained a search warrant "in their criminal investigation of the deaths." Police "have said little about circumstances "leading to the deaths."

The New York Times (9/14, Reisner, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a federal rule prompted by the deaths about 215 people in hospitals and nursing homes in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, will require that nursing homes have "alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety." The new rule, which will not be in enforced until November, "does not specifically require backup generators for air-conditioning systems ... and now some are questioning whether the rule should."

The AP (9/14, Reynolds, Spencer) reports that the nursing home exhibited flaws "in maintaining fire and safety standards pertaining to exits and storage areas" and had "more serious problems with its generator maintenance and testing," according to information gleaned from Feb. 2016 AHCA inspection records. The article adds that 64 nursing homes across the state remained without full power Thursday, according to AHCA.

The <u>South Florida Sun Sentinel</u> (9/13, Lade, 530K) reports that Florida does not require nursing homes have a generator, but they are in compliance as long as they have "alternate forms of power," according to AHCA spokeswoman Kristen Knapp. The AHCA said it has notified state regulators of which facilities were without power "so utility companies can prioritize locations with the greatest need."

The <u>South Florida Business Journal</u> (9/14, Bandell, Subscription Publication, 882K) reports AHCA "placed an immediate moratorium on admissions" to the facility. Additionally, Gov. Scott "said AHCA and the Department of Children and Families would work with local law enforcement to investigate the deaths." The AHCA's moratorium order indicates the facility notified FPL and attempted to place portable fans and coolers around the building after discovering its air conditioning was malfunctioning following Irma's Sept. 10 landfall.

Additional coverage by <u>TIME</u> (9/14, 5.85M), <u>Reuters</u> (9/15), the <u>South Florida Business Journal</u> (9/14, Subscription Publication, 882K), the website of <u>CNN</u> (9/14, Chavez, Ellefson, Nedelman, 33.59M), and the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, Waldron, 5.74M).

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE MAY SEEK NURSING HOME OVERSIGHT FOLLOWING RECENT DEATHS. The Hill (9/14, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that the House Energy and Commerce Committee "may begin looking at oversight of nursing facilities following the deaths of eight people in a Florida nursing home." The committee's chairman, Greg Walden (R-OR) said Thursday, "Some of these nursing home situations are very troubling ... because that's the most vulnerable population. So I think we'll want to get answers to that." The Hill says the committee may look into other post-hurricane issues, such as mosquito-borne diseases, also, and adds that "Walden said he's been in contact with the National Institutes of Health regarding planning for when mosquitoes return."

LONG-TERM CARE INDUSTRY OBJECTED TO COSTS OF 2005 BILL THAT WOULD HAVE MANDATED GENERATORS. The Miami Herald (9/14, Miller, Klascmarbin, 701K) reports that Florida lawmakers proposed a bill after Hurricane Wilma in 2005 "that would have required some nursing homes to have generators to protect frail elders from the ravages of heat and dehydration." However, the bill failed because of "industry opposition and government miserliness." The article extensively references the



Florida Health Care Association, noting that spokesperson Kristen Knapp said hospitals in the wake of Hurricane Irma are concerned about staff shortages and generator availability. The article also says that "longtime" AHCA administrator Skip Gregory backed "an industry initiative to include nursing homes among the highest priority customers when electrical utilities deployed to restore service after hurricanes," but utilities including FPL fought against it.

FLORIDA NURSING HOME SAYS IT WAS PREPARED FOR IRMA AS INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. Max Greenwood writes for The Hill (9/14, 1.68M) "Briefing Room" blog that as "federal, state and local officials" investigate eight deaths at a South Florida nursing home, the "home said it was prepared for the hurricane," and "the nursing home's administrator...said staff had stocked seven days' worth of food and were using a power generator." Administrator Jorge Carballo added that the facility is "fully cooperating with all authorities and regulators."

FLORIDA REPRESENTATIVE BLASTS NURSING HOME FOR EVACUATION DELAY. Julia Manchester writes for <u>The Hill</u> (9/14, 1.68M) "Briefing Room" blog that Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL) harshly criticized the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where eights elderly residents died this week following hurricane-caused power outages. Wilson called the facility's failure to evacuate its residents earlier an "abomination" as "the patients were...mere yards away" from a hospital.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS COULD MAKE IT HARDER TO SUE FLORIDA NURSING HOME. Mark Hand writes for <u>Think Progress</u> (9/14, 60K) that the Trump Administration's support for arbitration agreements in nursing home contracts means "family members of the people who died at the Hollywood, Florida, nursing home are likely prohibited from filing lawsuits or taking legal action against" its owner. The story adds that "the Florida Health Care Association, which represents more than 4 in 5 nursing homes in the state, said it does not represent the Hollywood facility."

SHULKIN OPENS VA'S BEDS TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY IRMA. The Miami Herald (9/14, Neal, 701K) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin announced Thursday that his agency "will open beds to non-Veteran nursing home residents affected by Hurricane Irma." Shulkin's move comes in the wake of "Wednesday's death of eight residents of a Hollywood nursing home steaming without air conditioning." Shulkin said, "We will continue to look for ways to relieve the hardship this powerful storm has caused. ... Much of the heavy-lifting to recover from the hurricane is still to come and our leaders and staff are determined to find as many ways as we can for VA to help in the response." The article adds that "the Florida Health Care Association said as of Thursday morning, 64 of the state's 683 nursing homes" still lacked power.

POLICE "RAID" TEXAS NURSING HOME THAT LEFT RESIDENTS IN FLOODWATERS. The AP (9/14) reports that on Thursday, police "raided" Lake Arthur Place, a Texas nursing home where law enforcement found 74 elderly residents being "kept in floodwaters during Tropical Storm Harvey." A Port Arthur police affidavit said nursing home administrator Jeff Rosetta resisted evacuation efforts and was handcuffed during the process, adding that his resistance and lack of action prior to flooding resulted in injuries among residents. Rosetta and the center are under investigation.

EXPERTS RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR SELECTING TRUSTWORTHY NURSING HOME. The New York Times (9/14, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports a list of five suggestions for helping people choose a dependable nursing home, a concern which the Times says many have following "news that eight Florida nursing home residents died in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma." Citing advice from experts in nursing home quality, the Times recommends people searching for a reliable nursing home avoid making hasty decisions; thoroughly research a facility by utilizing resources such as the federal Nursing Home Compare website; visit facilities during busier times or during times of low staffing "to gain a sense of how the facility operates when conditions are not ideal"; request a copy of the nursing home's emergency management plan; and contact local nursing home ombudsmen for additional assistance.

OPINION: HEALTHCARE PRICE SHOPPING PROCESS NEEDS IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY.



Harvard associate professor of healthcare policy and medicine Ateev Mehrotra, using a personal example, writes in <u>STAT</u> (9/14, 43K) that "price shop[ping] for health care" is an onerous process plagued by a lack of transparency. Mehrotra says he and his "colleagues...have found that most people can't successfully shop for care," and "offering people a price transparency website" fails to "help them switch to lower-cost providers" or "decrease health care spending." Mehrotra suggests several ways the US could improve healthcare consumers' ability to price shop, including "bundl[ing] payments to hospitals and surgery centers" and establishing "a real-time 'checkout' model consistent with most other services."

US HOUSE VOTES TO REPEAL DC'S ASSISTED-SUICIDE LAW, SENATE HAS YET TO ACT. The Washington Post (9/14, Portnoy, 10.38M) reports that the House of Representatives passed a spending law that would block the District of Columbia's Death with Dignity law, prohibit subsidies for abortions for low-income residents, impede its regulation of the sale of marijuana, and block its anti-discrimination laws for workers based on their reproductive decisions. The District's assisted-suicide law passed in December by an 11-2 vote after more than a year of discussions, and supporters say it allows "terminally ill patients to choose the timing and manner of their deaths." The article adds that is now up to the Senate to either take up an identical measure or it could "stall for another year congressional efforts to rein in the District through spending-related measures."

Human Services News:

SEVENTY HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS PRESS CONGRESS ON DACA. The Hill (9/14, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports "seventy health care organizations," spearheaded "by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)," on Thursday pushed for Congress to establish "a legal pathway to permanent residency for" children "with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status." The article says that "Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)" indicated Wednesday evening they "had reached an agreement in principle" with President Trump on the DACA issue.

PENNSYLVANIA AUDITOR GENERAL FINDS CHILD-WELFARE SYSTEM TO BE "BROKEN" IN NEW REPORT. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/14, Terruso, 1.71M) reports Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released a report on the state's child-welfare system on Thursday, entitled "State of the Child," in which DePasquale wrote, "Pennsylvania's child welfare system is broken. This is not hyperbole or exaggeration. ... Although a year-long review found passionate, dedicated professionals doing great work, it also found an extremely problematic system with deficiencies that put children's lives at risk." The report analyzed information from 13 representative counties in the state to reach its conclusions and recommendations, which included "more funding for training for child welfare workers and up-to-date technology to help them in their jobs."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/14, Giammarise, 516K) also provides coverage.

Nutrition & Obesity:

CARDIOLOGIST DISCUSSES WEIGHT GAIN, METABOLIC CHANGES TIED TO ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS. In the Wall Street Journal (9/14, 6.45M) "The Experts" blog, cardiologist Harlan Krumholz, MD, the Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health and the Yale University School of Medicine, discusses the growing number of studies suggesting that consumption of non-caloric artificial sweeteners may be causing weight gain, alterations in gut microbiota, and harmful metabolic changes. Dr. Krumholz observes that he personally is no longer drinking diet sodas and making sure he isn't consuming artificial sweeteners in his diet.

Medicare:

HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE COULD SAVE MEDICARE \$3.12 BILLION ANNUALLY, STUDY SAYS.

Health IT Analytics (9/14, Bresnick) reports that an integrated national health data exchange system



could save Medicare \$3.12 billion a year by "enhancing coordinated care and fostering more effective population health management programs," according to researchers from Notre Dame and the University of Michigan. The study looked at regional markets that have already saved an average of \$139 per beneficiary per year through health information exchange (HIE) organizations by reducing duplicate tests and procedures and having access to complete and accurate medical records, which also have made improvements in chronic disease management.

Medicaid & CHIP:

FORMER SEN. FRIST: CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM DEMANDS QUICK, BIPARTISAN PASSAGE. Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) writes in Forbes (9/14, 5.11M) that the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a "testament" to the goal of improving the "health of America's kids" and strengthening American families, and urges its passage. Frist reviews his decision to give up his career as a surgeon to enter public service so that he could "make a positive impact on the greatest number of lives" with legislation like CHIP.

OPINION: CHIP REAUTHORIZATION REMAINS TENUOUS AS DEADLINE APPROACHES. Dylan Scott writes for Vox (9/14, 1.54M) that time is running out for Congress to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program, which expires September 30. Scott praises the "outline of a deal" senators reached earlier this week, which would "extend CHIP's funding for five years" in "a big win for advocates who wanted a long-term extension." However, Scott says "three big caveats" could still hinder the process: identifying funding, gaining House approval, and the possibility of lawmakers "attach[ing] more controversial items – either Obamacare stabilization or repeal provisions – to the CHIP funding."

MEDICAID DEMAND STRAINS NEW MEXICO'S FINANCES. The AP (9/15) reports New Mexico's Human Services Department, which oversees Medicaid, has requested an \$84 million increase from the general fund due to an "increased strain" on state finances from Medicaid healthcare spending. The article says that Congress could "remove some of the pressure" by extending the Children's Health Insurance Program.

VIRGINIA HOUSE CANDIDATES FACE OFF OVER MEDICAID EXPANSION. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (9/14, Moomaw, 394K) reports that during a candidate forum on Wednesday for a Richmond, Virginia, state House seat between the Republican incumbent G. Manoli Loupassi and Democratic challenger and nurse practitioner Dawn M. Adams, the candidates discussed Medicaid expansion. Adams declared support for expansion, calling it a "moral issue" and arguing that the state has missed out on federal dollars. Loupassi claimed that Medicaid expansion would require state tax increases and said, "I don't agree to raise your taxes."

IDAHO OFFICIALS OFFER PLAN TO ADDRESS MEDICAID GAP, LOWER PREMIUMS. The AP (9/14, Kruesi) reports that an Idaho healthcare advisory panel led by former Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director Dick Armstrong presented a plan for two waivers aimed at closing the Medicaid gap and driving down premiums on the state's healthcare exchange. The proposal would allow some 35,000 working adults to buy subsidized health insurance on the exchange and would move the 2,500 "sickest adults" who account for roughly 40 percent of insurance claims off of the exchange and onto Medicaid, thus driving down premiums. The article reported that Armstrong said he had served on six advisory panels to address the Medicaid gap and to lower costs, but that all of his recommendations have "died in the Legislature."

STUDY FINDS ACA MEDICAID EXPANSION TIED TO EARLIER CANCER CARE FOR THE POOR.

Reuters (9/14, Rapaport) reports that researchers have found that more low-income adults who got diagnosed with cancer in states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act had health insurance and were diagnosed when their cancer was less advanced than those in states that did not expand Medicaid. Before the ACA took effect, 9.6 percent of low-income people diagnosed with cancer were uninsured, but afterwards in states with Medicaid expansion, that proportion was just 3.6 percent. The states that did not expand Medicaid showed a lesser drop: from 14.7 percent diagnosed with cancer



without insurance to 13.3 percent afterwards. The piece says that these results "suggest a need for additional expansion of access to care, especially for low-income populations."

COLUMNIST ASKS WHETHER NEVADANS WOULD PAY HIGHER TAXES FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION. Victor Joecks writes in his <u>Las Vegas Review-Journal</u> (9/14, 458K) column that Medicaid expansion in Nevada may require a "massive tax increase to give 'free' health care to abled-body adults above the poverty line," and that Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) and Sen. Dean Heller (R) "want Washington to continue paying the bulk of the program's tab." Joecks argues that the money the federal and state government is spending on Medicaid expansion could be used for education, and concludes, "If the Medicaid expansion is so beneficial to the state and its people, shouldn't Nevada's top elected officials be willing to ask Nevadans to pay for it themselves?"

Health & Medical News:

NEW THERAPIES INDICATE CANCER IS BECOMING MORE SURVIVABLE. The Economist (9/14, 846K) reports that cancer is the second leading cause of death globally behind heart disease. Cancer is becoming more survivable in wealthy nations, however. According to The Economist, 67 percent of US patients "will survive for at least five years," with the caveat that "different cancers fare differently, as do different sorts of patients." New research tools, including "easily generated antibodies, rapid gene sequencing and ever easier genetic engineering, have revolutionised biologists' understanding of cancer. This understanding has allowed more specific approaches to the disease to be developed, and the trend will continue." The rise of immunotherapy, "once a pipe dream, has become practical medicine, with approved therapies for eight kinds of cancer. The excitement at oncology conferences is palpable."

VARIETY OF NEW CANCER TREATMENTS ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT. The Economist (9/15, 846K) reports that immunotherapy "offers huge promise, both as an addition to established therapies and as a foundation for future ones. Hundreds of trials are pairing CTLA-4, PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitors with chemotherapy, radiation and targeted therapies." There is also the "development of further immunotherapies, which is being pursued both by building on the successes of the first checkpoint inhibitors and by using entirely new technologies, such as genome editing." Old ideas, such as vaccination, "are coming back into vogue." Some infections can lead to cancer, so "some of these vaccinations can prevent it." Furthermore, vaccines, equipped with the right antigen, "might encourage an immune response to a tumour which is already present, but which the immune system has failed to get to grips with." Biotech firms are "pursuing the creation of personalised vaccines based on the mutations in an individual tumour."

RESEARCHERS MAKE PROGRESS IN TREATING PEDIATRIC CANCER THANKS TO DONATED BRAIN OF FORMER COLLEGE FOOTBALL COACH'S GRANDSON. The Washington Post (9/14, Payne, 10.38M) reports researchers are using the brain donated by the deceased five-year-old grandson of former University of Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr to research the tumor that killed him. Chad Carr was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) in 2014, a cancer that "causes an inoperable tumor to grow in a child's brain that proves deadly to nearly 99 percent of those who receive the diagnosis." These statistics may decline thanks to Chad's brain, "in which researchers discovered an important gene mutation in his DIPG tumor that could potentially be controlled through an experimental treatment." Carl Koschmann, a pediatric oncologist at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, "published his team's findings in the journal NPJ Precision Oncology on Thursday, identifying the genetic mutation as aphosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) loss."

PHILADELPHIA INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN NIH-FUNDED "SMART" WATER BOTTLE STUDY TO REDUCE KIDNEY STONES. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/14, Burling, 1.71M) reports Penn Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are participating in a clinical trial "testing whether a \$55 'smart' water bottle that sends data on how much users drink to a phone app, plus financial incentives, can keep people of all ages who've had one kidney stone from getting another one." About one in 11 Americans has had a kidney stone, up 70 percent from 15 years ago. Treating kidney stones costs approximately \$10 billion each year, according to the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and



Kidney Diseases. The goal behind the clinical trials, funded by a \$450,000 grant from the NIH's Urinary Stone Disease Research Network, is to "get people who've had kidney stones to drink more so they will urinate more."

PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES REPORT ON PITTSBURGH HOSPITAL'S BREACH OF PRIVACY OF UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT. The Washington Post (9/15, Horton, 10.38M) reports that Pennsylvania's Department of Health and Human Services issued a report on Wednesday concerning a "serious breach of privacy for an unconscious patient" as hospital staffers crowded into an operating room to take photos of "a patient's genitals with a foreign object protrusion." The citation led to a 28-day suspension of one physician, another for a week, and the "ousting of the surgical services nursing director" at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Bedford Memorial Hospital. The report indicated that photos were circulated among hospital staff and beyond the staff, as well.

MAN SUFFERS ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION AFTER BEING SCRATCHED BY CAT. Newsweek (9/14, Matthews, 991K) reports that in a "rare but true case" report (9/12, 18K) published Sept. 12 in the BMJ, a 23-year-old man "suffered from erectile dysfunction after being scratched by a cat." The man visited the emergency department "after experiencing a fever, chills and intense night sweating for five days. He also suffered from erectile dysfunction as well as pain in his lower back, pelvis, testicles and penis glands, according to the report." Physicians eventually diagnosed him with cat-scratch disease, caused by the Bartonella henselae bacterium, which was later confirmed by a bone marrow and lymph node biopsy.

MARCH FOR SCIENCE ORGANIZERS PLOT LONG-TERM STRATEGY. STAT (9/14, Facher, 43K) reports organizers of April's March for Science on the National Mall realized in a meeting a month after the rally that the "grass-roots organization that was quickly formed to plan a singular event was not, at least immediately, equipped for far-reaching and long-term science advocacy." Caroline Weinberg, one of the national march's co-organizers, wrote to STAT in an email, "The big picture question was (and continues to be): How do we successfully transition from a march into a movement and how do we continue to mobilize our diverse, interdisciplinary, passionate supporters for science advocacy?" The organizers will, in the coming weeks, "begin to roll out their long-term strategy" of creating structures that "sell and incorporate science into every level of daily life, and ensure that science advocates are recognized as a constituency at every level of government." There is talk of a high-school student-designed "students for science" initiative and bringing the March for Science back next April.

ROSWELL PARK RESEARCHERS EXPLORE BETA BLOCKER USE FOR CANCER THERAPIES. The Buffalo (NY) News (9/14, 362K) reports a research team from Roswell Park Cancer Institute "reports that beta-2 adrenergic receptors, molecules present in the cells of humans and other mammals, control the functionality of key immune cells." These receptors are responsible for the "fight or flight" response when stressed, in which they generate "more of the stress hormone norepinephrine, buffering normal cells from some damaging effects but also impeding the immune system's ability to fight cancer." The report demonstrates "that the beta-2 adrenergic receptor, also known as ADRB2, can be pharmacologically manipulated." The article mentions the research was supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute, among other cancer organizations.

REPORT FINDS SHORTCOMINGS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. The NPR (9/14, Greenfieldboyce, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reports the conclusion of a report released Thursday by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine concluded that existing practices and policies on "so-called dual-use biological research" have "serious shortcomings." The Federal government has attempted to "mitigate the risks of dual-use research by setting up special committees, issuing new policies for reviewing federally funded research, and putting restrictions on what government-funded scientists can do with certain viruses like influenza." The report found the government's "current policies focus on seven types of experiments with 15 select pathogens and toxins and don't capture the full range of biosecurity concerns that come from the life sciences."

HAPPY MUSIC MAY STIMULATE CREATIVITY, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/14, Crist) reports that "listening to happy music" may encourage creative thinking, according to a <u>study</u> published in PLoS ONE. The study involved five groups of approximately 30 students each who were "randomly assigned to listen



to one of four pieces of music or to silence before and during...creativity tasks." Only "happy music" made "a significant difference in performance on the creativity test."

IN LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS, WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO LOSE INTEREST IN SEX, STUDY SUGGESTS. USA Today (9/14, Bowerman, 8.62M) reports that women are more apt than men "to lose interest in sex while in a longterm relationship," according to a recent study published in BMJ Open. Of the "4,839 British men and 6,669 women aged 16-74" surveyed, "15% of men and 34.2% of women reported lacking interest in sex" for at least three months of the prior year, the story says. USA Today adds that the study found "women were more likely to lose interest in sex when living with a partner or while in a relationship lasting over a year."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (9/14, Parker, 1.16M) also covers the story.

PHYSICIAN SAYS "NUDGES" CAN HELP SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS MAKE HARD END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS. STAT (9/14, Tedeschi, 43K) interviews University of Pennsylvania critical care physician Dr. Scott Halpern, who, the article says, believes a "nudge," or "framing a set of choices" to influence a person toward a certain decision "without shutting out other options," can be beneficial for patients making "end-of-life decisions." For example, Halpern says if physicians can "hel[p] patients see that by completing an advance directive they'll reduce decision-making burdens for their loved ones, many more patients will end up doing it because that's of such great importance to people."

HOUSE VOTES TO PROHIBIT FUNDING OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LAW. Cristina Marcos writes in The Hill (9/14, Marcos, 1.68M) "Floor Action" blog that the House on Thursday voted in favor of a Republican measure to deny federal funding to D.C. to implement a "law which bans employers from punishing workers for obtaining contraception, family planning services or abortions." The measure "was adopted on a mostly party-line vote of 214-194." The measure's sponsor, Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL), said, "This law prevents religious and pro-life advocacy organizations from making employment decisions consistent with their institutional mission. Without my amendment, some employers in the District of Columbia would be forced to embrace the beliefs of the 13 members of the D.C. Council."

OHIO HOUSE SPEAKER SAYS FLU VACCINE BILL MOVED TOO QUICKLY, NEEDS WORK. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/14, Siegel, 456K) reports that an Ohio bill "that would largely prohibit hospitals and other employers from requiring" employee flu shots received a negative response from House speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R) on Wednesday. Rosenberger said he thought the bill advanced through committee "a little quickly" and said the House would "look at drawing that back a little back so we can have a little more time on the bill and give it more hearings." The article says the bill likely will be "re-referr[ed]...to a committee." The Dispatch adds that the bill faced "opposition from every major state health-care association and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce."

ABORTION RATES FALL AS MORE HOSPITALS ARE ACQUIRED BY CATHOLIC-AFFILIATED SYSTEMS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Modern Healthcare (9/14, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that "as more hospitals become Catholic-affiliated," they are performing significantly fewer "inpatient abortions and other reproductive health services" prohibited by Catholicism, a new study determined. In a six-state analysis of Catholic hospitals, the study "found per-bed annual rates of inpatient abortions dropped by 30%" and "rates of sterilization via tubal ligation also decreased by 31%."

ENZALUTAMIDE SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS FOR PATIENTS WITH EARLY STAGE PROSTATE CANCER IN CLINICAL TRIAL. Reuters (9/14, Grover) reports that Pfizer and Astellas Pharma announced that Xtandi (enzalutamide), "in combination with an anti-hormone therapy," met the main goal in a clinical trial for patients with early stage prostate cancer. The drug "was statistically significant in improving survival in men with non-metastatic CRPC without their cancer spreading, compared with the standalone anti-hormone therapy." Fierce Pharma (9/14, Staton) reports that details from the clinical trial "won't be available until they're presented at an upcoming medical conference," but "the results were good enough to prompt conversations with regulators about a new approval in all patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer."



MODERNA, ASTRAZENECA'S EXPERIMENTAL HEART DRUG SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS IN EARLY TRIAL. Reuters (9/14, Mukhopadhyay) reports that AstraZeneca and Modern Therapeutics' experimental heart drug, mRNA AZD-8601, "met the main goal in an early-stage trial." AstraZeneca has applied for a mid-stage clinical trial of the drug in Europe.

<u>Fierce Biotech</u> (9/14, Adams) reports that the drug "works to express a local and transient surge of vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF-A) as a potential treatment for cardiovascular diseases."

Additional coverage is provided by the Financial Times (9/14, Crow, Subscription Publication, 1.34M).

ROMOSOZUMAB REDUCES RISK OF BONE FRACTURES IN WOMEN WITH OSTEOPOROSIS, STUDY INDICATES. The <u>Birmingham (AL) Business Journal</u> (9/14, Patchen, Subscription Publication, 870K) reports that romosozumab "has been shown to reduce the risk of bone fractures in women with osteoporosis" by boosting bone formation in a clinical trial. The study compared romosozumab "against one of the primary standards of care for osteoporosis, a drug called alendronate." The findings are published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

INVESTORS FUNDING COMPANIES DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE MEDICATION ADHERENCE. <u>STAT</u> (9/14, Robbins, 43K) reports that investors are "pumping money into companies" developing new technologies "aimed at helping patients take their medications as prescribed." According to STAT, poor medication adherence costs the pharmaceutical industry \$376 billion each year.

DRUGS APPROVED UNDER EXPEDITED REVIEW HAVE HIGHER RATE OF CHANGES TO SAFETY WARNINGS, STUDY FINDS. <u>STAT</u> (9/14, Silverman, 43K) reports that a <u>study</u> published in BMJ suggests that "medicines that were approved using expedited regulatory procedures had a 38 percent higher rate of changes to safety warnings on product labels." It also found a 48 percent higher rate to changes for boxed warnings and contraindications.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN NEW CONFESSION IN INTERNATIONAL COUNTERFEIT PET PHARMACEUTICAL SCAM. The Houston Chronicle (9/14, Banks, 1.97M) reports California vendor Sean L. Gerson confessed this week that "he had been peddling unregistered and smuggled animal pesticides online for 15 years, landing \$2.5 million in profits," marking the latest development in a five-year joint investigation between the Department of Homeland Security and the Food and Drug Administration with connections to Los Angeles, Houston, and Galveston. According to Assistant Special Agent in Charge Richard Valverson, "The products that these guys were selling ended up all over the U.S. ... We were seeing it penetrate the legitimate supply chain, on the web, but also big brand name stores had received some of this product." Assistant US Attorney Joseph Johns said, "Our goal with these prosecutions has been to dismantle the entire smuggling and distribution network for these illegal products."

COMMENTARY SUPPORTS PHILIP MORRIS' MODIFIED RISK TOBACCO PRODUCT APPLICATION FOR IQOS TECHNOLOGY. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Bentley, 465K) features commentary from Reason Foundation research associate Guy Bentley supporting Philip Morris' Modified Risk Tobacco Product application to the FDA for the company's heat-not-burn vaping product IQOS. According to Bentley, "Because there is no combustion in IQOS, there is no smoke, which means levels of lethal chemicals found in cigarette smoke are dramatically reduced," making the products a reasonable choice for MRTP eligibility. Bentley concludes, "If the FDA is serious about providing smokers the best possible options to quit and avoid an early grave, granting the MRTP for IQOS will be a major win for tobacco harm reduction and will provide the tools and information smokers desperately need."

LILLY, INCYTE'S BARICITINIB MEETS PHASE 2 ENDPOINTS. Reuters (9/14) reports that Lilly and Incyte's baricitinib beat a placebo in a Phase 2 trial for eczema. Eli and Incyte presented the trial results at the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology annual meeting in Geneva and said they plan to launch a Phase 3 trial in atopic dermatitis later this year. The Phase 2 eczema trial "found that after 16 weeks, 61 percent of patients on the highest dose of baricitinib and a topical corticosteroid had at



least a 50 percent reduction in symptoms, compared to 37 percent of patients treated with just a steroid."

BRIEF, INTENSE EXERCISE MAY ACTIVATE MOLECULAR PATHWAYS IN THE BODY THAT BOOST CHEMICALS THAT SUPPRESS GROWTH OF BREAST CANCER CELLS, RESEARCH IN MICE SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/14, Boggs) reports that research suggests "brief exercise that's intense enough to get" an individual's "heart rate elevated and make" him or her "breathe heavily activates molecular pathways in the body that boost chemicals called catecholamines, such as epinephrine, which suppressed the growth of breast cancer cells." The study, done in mice, was published in Cancer Research.

SAN DIEGO BLEACHING STREETS TO COMBAT HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 11, 0:15, Muir, 14.63M) reported the city of San Diego is leading public health initiatives in an effort to "help stem a Hepatitis A outbreak that's already claimed 16 lives in less than a year." The initiative includes cleaning crews "bleaching city streets" as the city battles the outbreak that has led to more than 400 confirmed cases.

SUFFOLK COUNTY CONFIRMS FIRST TWO HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASES OF YEAR. Newsday (NY) (9/14, Kitchen, 1.64M) reports Suffolk County, New York, health officials on Thursday confirmed that two Smithtown residents have tested positive for West Nile virus, marking the first human cases in the county this year. One resident "has fully recovered," while the other authorities said is "receiving supportive therapy at a local hospital." County health services commissioner Dr. James Tomarken said authorities "never learned about" other possible cases "because they didn't seek medical attention or they sought attention but lab tests weren't ordered." The article notes CDC data show it has received reports of 2,038 cases of the virus since January 17.

YOLO COUNTY OFFICIALS CONFIRM TWO "SEVERE" CASES OF WEST NILE VIRUS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/14, Sullivan, 349K) reports Yolo County, California, health officials have confirmed that two adult residents have been hospitalized with "severe" cases of West Nile virus. The cases are considered to be "neuroinvasive," a mark of their advanced state. Health officials "declined to identify the two areas of the county where the people had become infected" and "when they were admitted for treatment." The US CDC reports that nearly one in 50 people have severe symptoms related to West Nile virus cases.

COMPANY DEVELOPS NEW 3-D PRINTING TECHNIQUE TO PRODUCE VIABLE HUMAN ORGANS. Healthcare IT News (9/14, Siwicki, 5K) reports startup human tissue engineering company Prellis Biologics has developed a method to "create what it says are viable human organs using near instantaneous 3-D printing," a technique it "says it is solving the greatest obstacle to producing functional human tissue in the lab – the ability to print microvasculature." Where other companies have stumbled on the "roadblock" of creating microvasculature, Prellis has established a method to build tissue "scaffolding that includes microvascular structures," making it easier to print the blood vessel structures into larger tissue samples.

GOOGLE IMPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON ADS PLACED BY DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS. The New York Times (9/14, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Google recently established restrictions for advertisements placed by drug rehabilitation centers as more legal representatives and health advocates warn that online searches could be leading addicts to centers that are unable to help or could endanger them. Google spokeswoman Elisa Greene said the company "found a number of misleading experiences among rehabilitation treatment centers that led to our decision" to cease selling ads related to searches for rehab facilities. The Times reports Google "may lift the restriction if it can find a way to weed out misleading advertisements."

COLUMN: HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING, PREVENTING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AGAINST NURSES. Anna Almendrala writes for the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/14, 5.74M) that nurses are continually faced with workplace violence caused by the patients they are there to help, although they also are left victims by "hospital administrators who have the ability to gather data on the incidents, enforce strict zero-tolerance policies against violence and create environments that



discourage assaults," but largely have not done so. This "is a problem for nurses ... as well as the industry as a whole," and potentially could lead to an even steeper decline in the number of employees comprising the already dwindling national nursing workforce. Almendrala calls for more legislative mandates to encourage hospital administrators to track and prevent incidents of violence, and discusses expert recommendations on training hospital employees on how to address violence.

ALLERGAN TRIBAL PATENT DELVES INTO UNEXPLORED LEGAL TERRAIN. Reuters (9/14, Wolfe) reports legal experts commenting on Allergan's transfer of its Restasis patent to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe say the deal is breaking into new legal territory. Under contention is the tribe's use of sovereign immunity, which Allergan says places the patents outside of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board's authority. Per some legal scholars, there is no current precedent for either Allergan or competitors that have challenged the legality of its deal due to the agreement's anomalous nature.

GARDNER SIGNS ON TO SUPPORT MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH BILL. The Denver Post (9/14, Paul, 817K) reports Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) has voiced support for a bipartisan bill that aims to "ease the way for medical marijuana research that he hopes will be a big positive for Colorado." Sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) and co-sponsored by Gardner, the legislation would encourage research on medical marijuana "by streamlining the registration process and mak[ing] more pot available for the commercial production of any cannabis-derived Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs." The legislation also would require the National Institute on Drug Abuse to establish and publish recommendations on growing and producing marijuana for research purposes.

STUDY: BACTERIA COULD PROTECT TUMORS FROM ANTICANCER DRUGS. The Atlantic (9/14, Yong, 1.64M) reports on a study showing that some of the tens of trillions of bacteria and microscopic organisms in the human body can "shield tumors from anticancer drugs." The researchers found that an enzyme called CDD in a bacterium could dull the efficacy of a cancer drug, gemcitabine, for pancreatic cancer. Ravid Straussman of the Weizmann Institute of Science, one of the co-authors, said, "It would be naïve to think that antibiotics would cure these patients." The Atlantic says the research suggests that one solution might be to "block the CDD enzyme, and stop the bacteria from neutralizing gemcitabine."

National News:

AS RIGHT LASHES OUT, TRUMP SAYS DACA DEAL WOULD INCLUDE "MASSIVE BORDER CONTROLS." Media coverage of the DACA talks between the President and Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer highlighted the seeming sense of anger and betrayal on the part of some on the right. The contours of the emerging agreement reportedly include a legislative fix to the DREAMers' legal status and beefed-up border security – but not a border wall. The Hill (9/14, Easley, 1.68M), for example, described Trump's supporters as "apoplectic and lashing out at 'Amnesty Don,'" the New York Times (9/14, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says he "came under withering attack...from some of his strongest supporters, who were outraged and unforgiving," and the Washington Post (9/14, Costa, 10.38M) that his "staunch conservative allies...have erupted in anger and incredulity." Rep. Steve King "issued a dramatic warning to the president after he scrolled through news reports," declaring Trump's base "blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair." Townhall (9/14, Pavlich, 523K) noted that King told CNN, "The base will leave him. They can't support him anymore." Ann Coulter, meanwhile, tweeted, "At this point, who doesn't want Trump impeached?" USA Today (9/14, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that she later added, "If we're not getting a wall, I'd prefer President Pence."

The President defended his actions yesterday, starting with three morning tweets. Trump wrote, "No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be subject to vote." He also <u>said</u> "the WALL, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences and walls, will continue to be built." Trump <u>added</u>, "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really!....." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on <u>Fox News' Fox & Friends</u> (9/14, 1.9M), "The President has been very clear in what his position is. He wants to get a deal done. He wants to do that with DACA, but also to include massive border security and



interior enforcements. That's what he's tweeted this morning. That was the message he relayed last night."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/14, Mascaro, Bennett, Lauter, 4.49M) reports Trump further "defended his negotiations with Democratic leaders on immigration" later yesterday, telling reporters en route to Florida, "We're working on a plan – subject to getting massive border controls. We're working on a plan for DACA." The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes, 11.17M) showed Trump saying, "There was no deal. They didn't say they had a deal." <u>Roll Call</u> (9/14, Bennett, 134K) noted that White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters also told reporters, "There was no deal made."

On the other hand, the AP (9/14, Werner, Colvin) quotes Trump as saying "he was 'fairly close' to a deal with congressional leaders." He added that "his promised wall along the US-Mexico border would 'come later,' but would need to happen soon." In fact, "after he landed in Florida, he declared repeatedly, 'If we don't have a wall, we're doing nothing." The CBS Evening News (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes, 11.17M) reported that later Thursday, Trump "was back to criticizing the Democrats about the wall," telling reporters, "If the Democrats aren't going to approve it, then we're not going to do what they want." The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Meckler, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump, Democrats Haggle On Contours Of A 'Dreamers' Deal,"

ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 4, 2:25, Vega, 14.63M) showed Trump saying, "We're talking about taking care of people, people that were brought here, people that have done a good job and were not brought here of their own volition. ... We're not looking at citizenship, we're not looking at amnesty. We're looking at allowing people to stay here." Breitbart (9/14, Spiering, 2.42M) reported that "on Air Force One, however, a White House spokesperson confirmed that 'legal citizenship over a period of time' for DACA recipients would likely be part of a deal." Pelosi, moreover, "insisted that the plan would offer them a 'path to citizenship." Politico (9/14, Nussbaum, 3.6M), meanwhile, reports "the White House is against 'amnesty,' but won't say what that means," and The Hill (9/14, Fabian, 1.68M) described Trump as "trying to soothe his base, which is incensed."

Eamon Javers said on <u>CNBC's Closing Bell</u> (9/14, 156K), "That's something that we haven't really seen much of in Washington since the Clinton Administration, but it looks like...Trump is trying a little triangulation here as well." The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Dinan, 541K) reports, however, that the President also said yesterday that "GOP leaders in Congress are 'very much on board' the deal he's working with...Schumer and...Pelosi." The <u>Washington Post</u> (9/14, Viebeck, O'Keefe, Debonis, 10.38M) reports Speaker Ryan dismissed "the potential deal...as little more than a preliminary discussion," but also "agreed in broad terms with the president's goal of protecting hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants while postponing talk of a border wall but toughening US border security in other ways."

Sen. Bill Cassidy said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K), "The American people obviously want the border security. But if you look at polls, the American people want something done with DACA in a way which doesn't kick out a lot of kids who came here when they were young. So, I think the President is probably looking at the polls and realizes the sweet spot is to work out that compromise. So, I think that's what the President seems to be aiming for."

Sen. James Lankford was asked on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K) if he could support a deal with Democrats on Dreamers that does not include funding for a border wall. Lankford said, "I would actually. ... I've been clear for years with people that the Dream Act is not going to pass, but it doesn't solve the problem to ignore the issue on the kids that are on DACA. ... As far as the issue of not having a border wall, that doesn't surprise me, quite frankly. ... The Department of Homeland Security has yet to explain to the" Appropriations and Homeland Security committees "exactly what the wall would look like, where they would put it exactly, how it'd be constructed, the final cost of it. All of those things are still up in the air. Until they can resolve those things, we shouldn't have a border wall funding issue. ... We're not ready for that at this point. We are ready to be able to deal with DACA."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 836K), "I don't think any deal's been cut. I think there was talks. You can't fix a problem if we don't talk about it, but I can tell you one thing is border



security has to happen. Enforcement of laws has to happen before you'll see this go anywhere. But to talk about it and bring it out on the table I think is a winner for all of America."

Rep. Louie Gohmert said on <u>Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight</u> (9/14, 2.46M), "I refuse to talk about legalizing anybody until that border is secure. There are places we have got to have a wall, we've got to secure it, and once that is done, then we'll talk about this other stuff."

McClatchy (9/14, Glueck, 67K) describes Trump as "hedging on a border wall" and "threatening to betray core campaign promises in the process," though "according to the GOP base, this is all the fault of the Republican-controlled Congress." Along those lines, Joe Scarborough, in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M), calls King's comments yesterday "a primal scream" and mocks "poor Ann Coulter," but adds that "Hannity, Bannon and King are about to learn the same lesson that Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Hillary Clinton, Jeff Zucker, Mika Brzezinski and I discovered in 2016: With Trump, it is never over. His base will stick with him no matter what."

Breitbart (9/14, Poor, 2.42M) noted that Rush Limbaugh did not join the choir of conservative criticism of Trump. Instead he said, "I'm asking myself: Would Trump really do that? Is he that...? Fill in the blank. But a lot of people do think it, a lot of people did think it, and right there pushing that narrative is the Drive-By Media – and certain Republicans are helping that narrative be pushed."

Rep. Tim Ryan said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "These are kids. These are kids who came here with family members. They did nothing wrong, and we are trying to solve a problem. Of course we want to talk about jobs, but this is an immediate crisis that, quite frankly, the President created. He could have handled this in a much better way of just saying, let's figure out if he wants to go through the legislative process to formalize this. We could have done that without all the drama. But here we are."

Rep. Adriano Espaillat said on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 (9/14, 1.12M) that the President "doesn't have to send it back to Congress. In fact, in Congress, we've got several pieces of legislation that takes care of the problem. We have the DREAM Act that is sponsored by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a bipartisan piece of legislation that seems to have the provisions in it that would resolve this problem. ... All he needs to do is a hop, skip, and a jump to the Capitol. Let's roll up our sleeves and go over the provisions in the bill. Let's see what's good and what's bad and make sure we pass it."

"Sources": House GOP Leaders Want Wall As Part Of DACA Deal. Politico (9/14, Bade, 3.6M) reports that according to "sources close to leadership...House Republicans plan to ask Trump to push for the wall as part of any DACA fix."

Meadows Tells Conservatives Not To Worry, Says Group "Working Very Closely" With White House. USA Today (9/14, Collins, 8.62M) reports Rep. Mark Meadows, chairman of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus, "says conservatives should not be concerned about reports...Trump has struck an immigration deal with Democrats, because the Freedom Caucus is taking the lead in drafting the bill." Meadows "downplayed talk of a deal Thursday, because he said members of his caucus are working in conjunction with the White House to get conservative legislative proposals drafted." Meadows told USA Today, "We're working very closely with the administration and conservative members of Congress...on how to address this (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) issue."

In fact, Politico (9/14, Cheney, Hesson, 3.6M) says "many conservatives on Capitol Hill made clear this week that there is, in fact, a window for the president to win buy-in from the right for a deal that would protect some undocumented immigrants...in exchange for stepped-up immigration enforcement measures." According to "interviews with more than a dozen conservative lawmakers...many envision a deal much like the one Trump and Democratic leaders purportedly reached." Politico adds that "the real test will be what kind of border security measures Democrats are willing to stomach, and whether the right will insist on a border wall despite Trump's decision to put it off."

Pelosi To Democratic Whips: "We Made A Deal To Make A Deal." Politico (9/14, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M)



reports that Pelosi told "House Democratic whips that despite 'some misunderstandings in the press about a deal, we made a deal to make a deal. We made a deal to go forward."

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (9/14, 983K), "My understanding, I wouldn't call it a deal. What I would say is a plan to get to a deal. I think it was very clear that the President understood and there was an agreement that the Dreamer Act would be the substance of whatever agreement is ultimately reached and also what was reached was that security, enhanced security at the border would be part of whatever program was ultimately agreed to."

Pelosi: "I Do Trust The President Is Sincere." Reuters (9/14) reports that Pelosi also said yesterday "she trusted...Trump's sincerity in working to protect so-called Dreamers." Pelosi told reporters, "When we're talking about this legislation to protect the Dreamers, yes I do trust that the president is sincere in understanding that the public supports that overwhelmingly, the public supports not sending these young people back."

Schumer On Hot Mic: "He Likes Us" Or "Likes Me Anyway." Roll Call (9/14, McKinless, 134K) reported that "the Senate chamber microphones picked up...Schumer commenting on his relationship with...Trump Thursday morning." Said Schumer, "He likes us. ... He likes me anyway." Politico (9/14, Nelson, 3.6M) says "it was not clear about whom Schumer was speaking."

Sources: Trump Has Difficulty Speaking To McConnell, Has Better Rapport With Schumer And Pelosi. Politico (9/14, Bade, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that "in recent weeks, Trump has complained in private that it's difficult to have any sort of relationship – or even make small talk – with...McConnell," and has "told staff that he finds...Ryan, whom he's dubbed a 'boy scout,' dry as well, but the two have some rapport." A "senior administration official" said "the only Republican in leadership with whom Trump has a personal connection is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy." Politico adds that "by contrast, Trump can relate to Democratic leaders...Schumer and...Pelosi," and "wants to keep meeting with them." A "White House source" tells Politico, "Schumer just talks to him. You get Mitch and Paul in here, and they're trying to explain this or that, and there is no personal connection."

Breitbart: "Amnesty Don" Number One Trend In DC On Twitter. Breitbart (9/13, Binder, 2.42M) indicated, in fact, that "Amnesty Don' peaked at the number one trend in Washington, D.C. on Twitter, the social media outlet the President is most known for using." Breitbart (9/14, Moons, 2.42M) also runs a series of pieces highly critical of Trump, including one titled "9 Family Members Of Americans Killed By Illegal Aliens Respond To Possible DACA Deal With Democrats."

Another <u>Breitbart</u> (9/14, Munro, 2.42M), titled "Trump Voters Throw MAGA Hats into Twitter Bonfire," warns the President that "the hat-burning may presage a huge demoralization among Trump's loyal followers, and cause his support to drop down to the basement levels achieved by President George W. Bush when he pushed for an amnesty in 2006 and 2007."

Hispanic Lawmakers, Immigration Activists Upset At Pelosi And Schumer. Politico (9/14, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports "Democratic leaders are facing fresh trouble with their left flank after cutting their latest deal with President Donald Trump to protect Dreamers." Politico adds that "Hispanic lawmakers were blindsided by the Wednesday night announcement from" Pelosi and Schumer "that they'd support legislation to help the nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for an unspecified boost in border security," and "immigration activists were frustrated to see Democrats claim victory only days after calling for a stand-alone vote on a path to citizenship for Dreamers." Pelosi "sought to assuage her caucus' concerns Thursday morning."

WPost, USA Today, WSJournal Among Those Defending Trump. The Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for 'dreamers," and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security." USA Today (9/14, 8.62M) editorializes on the "fierce backlash from conservatives, as well as opposition from the far left, where anything other than



resistance to Trump is considered treasonous." Yet it also concludes that "assuming a deal gets done, it will provide something for both sides."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) urges Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

Jim Acosta said on CNN's The Lead (9/14, 927K), "The President said he is getting close to a deal to help those Dreamers, but he did warn talking to reporters on Air Force One he's going to have to start working with Democrats if he's not getting enough cooperation from Republicans, and that capped a day of confusion for the White House as the President was being contradicted by his aides and vice versa all day long on the subject of immigration."

Juan Williams said on Fox News' Special Report (9/14, 1.88M), "Steve King, the lowa congressman, said basically the President risks blowing up his base as this point. You think about that base...it's about 35, 40 percent. You think about the high retention of Republican support for the President. If that starts to deteriorate, if you get the Ann Coulter voices, the right wing talk radio voices pulling away from this President, that could crater what is not a high level of support for him in that base."

Tucker Carlson said on Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (9/14, 2.46M), "It would be a massive amnesty, maybe the biggest ever granted in American history. This is thrilling news for Democrats and for open borders advocates everywhere. In return for this concession, the President receives nothing, no reduction in overall immigration totals, no tightened restriction on foreign workers who take jobs from Americans, no E-Verify to prevent illegal immigrants from working under the table, no end to chain migration. The President isn't even getting a border wall, though he insisted he will somehow get one later, possibly."

Hannity: Schumer And Pelosi Will "Stab The President In The Back." Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on Fox News' Hannity (9/14, 2.58M) that Schumer and Pelosi are essentially claiming that "the Democrats get everything they want, they get DACA and the President doesn't get his wall. It is the one thing everybody needs to understand about Schumer and Pelosi. They don't like this President. They can't stand him. They want the President to fail and they certainly don't have his best interests at heart or in mind. Schumer and Pelosi only care about scoring cheap political points because they want to gain seats in 2018. ... As soon as it doesn't serve them politically, I can promise you, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, they are going to turn around and stab the President in the back. That's a fact."

NBC News Analysis: "No Formal Plan" To Build Border Wall, "Obstacles Piling Up." NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) reported that "eight months into his presidency, there's no formal plan for building the kind of wall the President's been touting for two years. ... NBC has learned the study...Trump ordered in January on how to fully secure the border yet to be finalized." Moreover, "the obstacles are piling up," with "many construction firms fearing political retaliation are shying away from what typically would be a highly sought after and lucrative contract." Moreover, there is, NBC continued, "a wall of opposition" to "one of the President's top priorities."

TRUMP MEETS WITH IRMA SURVIVORS, PRAISES FEDERAL AND STATE RESPONSE. The President visited Southwest Florida yesterday to meet with Hurricane Irma survivors. The trip sparked largely favorable coverage, particularly on Florida print outlets and local TV newscasts. Encapsulating the tone of the reporting across much of the media spectrum, Aaron Blake writes in the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) the that visuals from the trip show "a guy who is actually pretty adept at pressing the flesh with not-necessarily-Trump-supporters and doing the small-talk thing. These are all good images for the White House." A number of reports, however, take a more critical tone when addressing Trump's encouragement to Gov. Rick Scott to challenge Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in next year's elections. The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans, 11.17M), for example, said Trump "couldn't resist injecting a little politics," the AP (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) that he "couldn't resist injecting a political flavor into his visit," and the Los Angeles Times (9/14, Lee, McDonnell, 4.49M) that he "raised some eyebrows by injecting politics into Thursday's visit."



As the <u>Sunshine State (FL) News</u> (9/14, Smith) notes, the President "thanked...Scott for his work, saying he's doing an 'incredible' job" and adding, "I hope this man right here, Rick Scott, runs for the Senate." Scott "returned the compliment, praising the president half a dozen times during his four-minute remarks for his support even while Irma was thousands of miles away." The <u>New York Times</u> (9/14, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says "Scott's compliment was notable, as the federal government's response to hurricanes is regularly measured against its botched efforts after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005." <u>Politico</u> (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports Scott "has publicly said he is weighing a Senate run, but he has insisted that he feels little pressure to make an early decision."

The Naples (FL) Daily News (9/14, Stanley, 142K), meanwhile, reports that in Naples, Trump "handed out half-sandwiches and bananas with the first lady, vice president and...Scott," and "met with a handful of residents who sat waiting on front lawns of the mobile home community, with punched out windows, collapsed porches and wrecked carports." In Fort Myers, the President "thanked the Marines, Navy, Army, National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Administration and everyone who helped keep lives safe during the hurricane."

WTVJ-TV Miami (9/14, 6:16 p.m. EDT, 30K) described the President as "consoler in chief, hugging and handshaking with folks clobbered by the fist of Hurricane Irma," and WFTX-TV Fort Myers, FL (9/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT, 16K) reported "people" say that "even though they've lost everything, they are encouraged by some personal attention from the White House." WTXL-TV Tallahassee, FL (9/14, 6:03 p.m. EDT, 10K) showed Trump saying, "The job that everybody has done is incredible. I just want to thank everybody, the first responders. We've seen the devastation." WPEC-TV West Palm Beach, FL (9/14, 5:09 p.m. ET, 34K), meanwhile, showed Vice President Pence saying, "We are with you today. We are going to be with you tomorrow, and we are going to be with you until Florida rebuilds bigger and better than ever before."

Upon his arrival in Florida, <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Jackson, 8.62M) reports, Trump spoke "in front of a Coast Guard helicopter at Southwest Florida International Airport" to thank "first responders and other officials working to rescue stranded residents, restore utilities and ensure public safety – even thanking the media for keeping people informed."

Reporting on Trump's Naples stop, the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans, 11.17M) showed a person in the crowd telling the President, "Where was Obama in the last hurricane? He was playing golf." Trump replied, "Was this a good vote?" The unidentified speaker responded, "Yes." Trump was shown saying, "He said best vote of his life." <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M), meanwhile, only mentioned that Trump was in Florida "surveying the damage from...Irma" as the preface of a report on the path of Hurricane Jose, and <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) did the same at the tail end of a story that concluded Trump is struggling to fulfill his campaign promises.

Jim Acosta said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 979K) that Trump "did come face to face with some storm victims," and showed him saying, "We love the people of Florida. And they went through something I guess the likes that nobody's ever seen before. They've never seen a category like this coming. Because it came in really at a five. All you have to do is look what happened in the Keys. We love these people and we're going to be back and we're going to help and the job that everybody has done in terms of first responders and everybody has been incredible."

The AP (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) describes Trump as "brimming with enthusiasm for the state and federal response effort," and says he and the First Lady "encountered piles of broken siding and soggy furniture heaped on front porches, and residents who were happy to get a presidential visit." Said Trump, "We are there for you 100 percent. ... I'll be back here numerous times. This is a state that I know very well." NPR (9/14, Kelly, 2.4M) said that "the surrounding area was littered with downed trees and ripped-out signs; mobile homes were totaled; and tarps covered roofs, according to pool reports. Gas stations along the way advertised that they didn't have fuel."

The New York Times (9/14, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) similarly indicates that in his "third visit to storm-ravaged parts of the United States in the past few weeks after two major hurricanes," the President "again praised the federal government's performance," saying, "I think we're doing a good job in



Florida." The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, Miller, 541K) notes he "commended" both Scott and the "fantastic" job FEMA "had done preparing and responding to the massive hurricane." <u>Reuters</u> (9/14, Oliphant) reports Trump also had praise for "first responders and local officials for their handling of the storm." Said Trump, "When you think of the incredible power of that storm, and while people unfortunately passed, it was such a small number. ... People thought thousands and thousands of people may have their lives ended and the number is a very small number, which is a great tribute to you." The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/14, Ballhaus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) runs a similar report.

The New York Post (9/14, Steinbuch, 4.31M) reports that "before leaving the White House on Thursday morning, Trump said that 'historically there's never been anything like this.'" He added, "But the United States Coast Guard, FEMA, working along with Gov. Scott, they've really done an amazing job. ... We have the largest assemblage of human beings ever in one area for power, and rapidly it's being turned on."

A couple of reports focused on Trump's offhand comments yesterday. Under the headline "Donald Trump Really Can't Stop Talking About His Hands," Vanity Fair (9/14, Weaver, 2.7M) reported that "Trump has been traveling to the southern parts of the country to respond to the first natural disasters of his presidency, or in his case, to talk about himself." When "he prepared to put on a pair of latex gloves while helping with Harvey relief earlier this month, Trump claimed 'his hands were too big' for the gloves," and "in a clear move to recycle his bit, he said the same thing while helping with Irma relief in Florida on Thursday." Business Insider (9/14, Abadi, 3.83M) ran a similar report.

Yoho Also Praises Recovery Effort. Rep. Ted Yoho said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 836K) that his district is "recovering. There's a stellar effort by everybody on the ground and I'm happy to report that all six of the counties in District 3 of north-central Florida got individual assistance where people can qualify for \$33,000 of assistance, public assistance and hazard assistance." Yoho added, "We have got 21,000 MREs coming in later on today and 10,000 gallons of water. Power is being put up. The important thing is that the FEMA money is here to help alleviate hazard release, picking up trash and debris. We're happy with the progression and I think the greatest thing I saw was people coming together as Americans, as we always do in tough times like this to make a tough situation better."

Trump To View Irma Relief Efforts In Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands. McClatchy (9/14, Daugherty, 67K) reports that the President will visit Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands "to view Hurricane Irma relief efforts first hand," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Thursday. Rosselló "has been in regular communication with the White House over the past week and said that White House officials have pledged to support Puerto Rico's needs." According to McClatchy, Puerto Rico "sustained an estimated \$1 billion in damage from Irma, up from an initial estimate of \$600 million," and that "will play a role when Congress discusses an Irma relief package, which will cost billions of dollars after Irma moved through the Keys and along Florida's Gulf Coast."

Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma. The Hill (9/14, Henry, 1.68M) reports that following his visit to Florida, Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."

Jim Acosta said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 979K) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

SBA PROVIDING LOW-INTEREST DISASTER LOANS TO IRMA VICTIMS. The <u>Jacksonville (FL) Daily</u> Record (9/14, 346) reports that the state of Florida "is asking businesses that suffered damage from



Hurricane Irma to report it to the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center." The information "will be shared among state and local agencies providing disaster relief for businesses." the Daily Record adds that "low-interest disaster loans also are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully covered by insurance."

Scott Activates Loan Program To Aid Small Businesses Impacted By Irma. The Miami Herald (9/14, Harris, 701K) reported on its love blog that Gov. Rick Scott has "activated a loan program designed to support small businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma." Under the bridge loan program, small businesses that sustained physical or economic damage in the storm can receive "interest-free, short-term loans." Scott approved "up to \$10 million for the program, which is managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity."

IRMA'S AGRICULTURAL COST ESTIMATED IN THE BILLIONS. The Florida Farm Bureau said Thursday that "informal estimates suggest" the total agricultural cost of Hurricane Irma "will be in the billions," the Post (9/14, Salisbury, 273K) reports. Wind and rain from the storm "caused widespread destruction of crops, buildings, fencing and other property," with the most severe damage occurring in Southwest Florida.

FLORIDA FACING SHORTAGE OF INSURANCE ADJUSTERS. The Wall Street Journal (9/14, Scism, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that a shortage of insurance adjusters could slow rebuilding efforts in the state. While insurers are rushing to get more adjusters to the state, the Journal says there is a bidding war for those currently available, with some homeowners raising fees paid to adjusters by 30 percent.

FPL PROMISES TO HAVE POWER ON BY SUNDAY ON FLORIDA'S EAST COAST. The Miami Herald (9/14, Rodriguez, 701K) reports that Florida Power & Light Co. "has doubled-down on its promise to have the electricity up and running for all homes and businesses on the state's east coast by the end of Sunday Sept. 17." The west coast, which sustained the greatest damage, "will be back online by Friday Sept. 22." FPL spokesman Bryan Garner said during a press conference Thursday morning that "FPL had restored service to 70 percent of its three million South Florida customers."

FOCUS IN FLORIDA KEYS TURNS TO RELIEF. Manuel Bojorquez reported on the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, story 7, 1:50, Mason, 11.17M) that the focus in the Florida Keys has turned to relief as Monroe County officials "have checked on all homes in the hardest hit areas and have found no additional victims." While water and food are "reaching those who stayed behind," running water may not be restored for days. In addition, "power and cell service are fully restored." Bojorquez added that because conditions "are still considered hazardous...it could be days before all residents of the Keys are allowed back in."

MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY TAKES "HORRIFIC HIT." The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (9/14, Williams, 160K) reports that "Alva's Oak Park mobile home community took a horrific hit from the storm," and residents say "no county workers or other officials had yet come to survey the damage at their isolated enclave."

RAW SEWAGE BACKING UP ON LAWNS IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA. The Fort Myers (FL) News-Press (9/14, Dulaney, 160K) reports that in neighborhoods across Lee County, Florida, "raw sewage is backing up into residents' driveways and into their yards in the wake of Hurricane Irma." Fort Myers Public Works Director Richard Moulton said 32 lift stations, which "are used to collect sewage from a defined area – anywhere between 10 and 100 homes – and pump it to the city's wastewater plant" are without power in the city.

VA OPENS BEDS TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY IRMA. The Miami Herald (9/14, Neal, 701K) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin announced Thursday that his agency "will open beds to non-Veteran nursing home residents affected by Hurricane Irma." Shulkin's move comes in the wake of "Wednesday's death of eight residents of a Hollywood nursing home steaming without air conditioning."



Shulkin said, "We will continue to look for ways to relieve the hardship this powerful storm has caused. ... Much of the heavy-lifting to recover from the hurricane is still to come and our leaders and staff are determined to find as many ways as we can for VA to help in the response."

Police Obtain Search Warrant For Nursing Home Where Residents Died. Meanwhile, police in Hollywood Florida have obtained a search warrant "and can begin combing for evidence" in The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where the eight senior citizens died, the South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/14, McMahon, Bryan, 530K) reports. While officials "are still figuring out what happened when and said they do not want to speculate or prematurely release incorrect information," Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration "on Wednesday put an immediate stop on all admissions to the nursing home at the direction of Gov. Rick Scott."

ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 2, 3:30, Muir, 14.63M) described "what really played out inside that nursing home." ABC added that nursing home administrators "tell us they are going to cooperate fully with this investigation to figure out what went wrong." The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 6, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) and NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) also reported on the investigation into what occurred at the nursing home.

The New York Times (9/14, Reisner, Fink, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that a new federal rule created after Hurricane Katrina "will require that nursing homes have 'alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures to protect resident health and safety,'" but it "will not be enforced until November, and even then, some patient advocates are concerned that it does not go far enough." The rule "does not specifically require backup generators for air-conditioning systems," and in the wake of the deaths at the Florida nursing home, "some are questioning whether the rule should."

IRMA'S DEATH TOLL RISES TO 26. The Naples (FL) Daily News (9/14, Sarkissian, 142K) reports that at least 26 deaths have been attributed to Hurricane Irma, marking "an increase from the 12 announced by Scott's office earlier this week." The Miami Herald (9/14, Klas, 701K) says "the number of casualties is destined to grow as the total confirmed by county medical examiners, and reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, does not include the eight elders who died this week when their Broward nursing home became an oven, or the eight reported dead in the Keys, when winds hacksawed through their islands."

RELIEF SUPPLIES FLOWING INTO ST. MAARTEN. On <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/14, story 3, 1:25, Muir, 14.63M), David Wright reported on the "devastation in St. Maarten...and the urgent effort to get people out." Wright said that while "relief supplies are flowing in," recovery "is going to take some time." NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 5, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M) also reported on recovery efforts in the Caribbean.

MODELS INDICATE TROPICAL STORM JOSE IS UNLIKELY TO COME ASHORE. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that Tropical Storm Jose is currently "about 400 miles east of the Bahamas, and it could go back to being a hurricane by this weekend." The storm is "forecast to move northward with eight-foot waves and dangerous rip currents along the east coast." ABC added that all of the models agree that Jose "will likely not come ashore."

OFFICIALS BELIEVE HURRICANE HARVEY DEATH TOLL IS "AT LEAST 82." The Washington Post (9/14, Moravec, 10.38M) reports that Texas officials said Thursday that the death toll from Hurricane Harvey is believed to be "at least 82 people," but "it could take weeks to determine the exact death toll." The Post says the number could have been significantly higher, "given the amount of flooding and that entire communities were cut off for days."

HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD DISTRICT SEEKING FUNDS FOR HARVEY-RELATED HOME BUYOUTS. A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/14, Whoriskey, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that while the Houston suburb of Meyerland "has long presented a facade of prosperity and permanence," after "major floods" in 2015, 2016 and this year form Hurricane Harvey, "the envy is dissipating, replaced by the once-unthinkable idea that swaths of Meyerland ought to be abandoned and returned to nature." While "a retreat from a thriving neighborhood is a rarity in U.S. urban history," in Harvey's wake, "the notion is



compelling enough in flood-prone communities that it has drawn support from leading planners in Houston." The Post adds that officials with the Harris County Flood Control District, which includes Houston, "announced last week that they are 'actively pursuing the funding necessary to proceed with Harvey-related home buyouts."

TRUMP REITERATES THAT THERE WERE "BAD DUDES" ON BOTH SIDES IN

CHARLOTTESVILLE. NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander, 16.61M) reported last night that "on the trip back from touring hurricane damage in Florida," the President "was asked about meeting with the Senate's only African-American Republican," Sen. Tim Scott, "and again brought up his controversial comments after Charlottesville that there were, in his words, 'bad dudes,' not just among the white supremacists but among the left-wing anti-fascist groups that came out to confront them." Politico (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) says Trump echoed "language that triggered a backlash against him last month," the New York Times (9/14, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that he "thrust himself back into the racial storms of Charlottesville," and CNN (9/14, Collins, 33.59M) that he "maintained...his controversial position."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Westwood, 465K) notes that the President said of his talk with Scott, "We had a great conversation. ... I think especially in light of the advent of Antifa, if you look at what's going on there. You have some pretty bad dudes on the other side also and essentially that's what I said." Added the President, "Now because of what's happened since then with Antifa. When you look at really what's happened since Charlottesville, a lot of people are saying and people have actually written, 'Gee, Trump may have a point.' I said there's some very bad people on the other side also. ... But we had a great conversation."

"Asked about Trump's latest remarks," Scott told <u>Politico</u> (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) that the President "is who he has been. ... I wanted to inform and educate a different perspective. I think we accomplished that. To assume that immediately thereafter that he's immediately going to have an epiphany is unrealistic." <u>CNN</u> (9/14, Collins, 33.59M) notes that in a statement, Scott also said, "Rome wasn't built in a day, and to expect the President's rhetoric to change based on one 30-minute conversation is unrealistic. ... Antifa is bad and should be condemned, yes, but the KKK has been killing and tormenting black Americans for centuries. There is no realistic comparison. Period."

Trump Signs Resolution Condemning Hatred, Bigotry, Racism. The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports the President "signed a resolution Thursday that condemned the deadly violence at a white nationalist demonstration last month in Charlottesville, Virginia, saying he was pleased to sign it." The President said in his signing statement, "As Americans, we condemn the recent violence in Charlottesville and oppose hatred, bigotry, and racism in all forms. ... No matter the color of our skin or our ethnic heritage, we all live under the same laws, we all salute the same great flag, and we are all made by the same almighty God. ... We are a Nation founded on the truth that all of us are created equal. As one people, let us move forward to rediscover the bonds of love and loyalty that bring us together as Americans."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Korte, 8.62M) says the signing "came just hours after he once again compared white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the KKK to the anti-fascist 'antifa' movement, repeating some of the very remarks that led Congress to pass the resolution in the first place." <u>Politico</u> (9/14, Lima, 3.6M) also reports Trump signed the resolution "despite his equivocating on the matter."

U-Va Will Spend Amount Equivalent To 1921 KKK Donation To Help Charlottesville Injured. The Washington Post (9/14, Svrluga, 10.38M) reports the University of Virginia has announced it "will help pay the medical expenses of people injured during clashes with white supremacists in Charlottesville last month, in an amount equivalent to money that was pledged to the university by the Ku Klux Klan in 1921." U-Va president Teresa A. Sullivan said the KKK's "\$1,000 pledge, if inflated to today's dollars, would be worth about \$12,400. With that number in mind, I have allocated \$12,500 from private sources to the 'Charlottesville Patient Support Fund.'"

Rohrabacher: Democrats Were Behind Charlottesville Rally That Ended In Violence. Writing for the



San Francisco Chronicle (9/14, Garofoli, 3.31M), Joe Garofoli discusses a recent interview he conducted with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. Garofoli says Rohrabacher thinks "that Democrats were behind last month's white nationalist riots in Charlottesville, Va. ... Under Rohrabacher's scenario, a former 'Hillary and Bernie supporter' got Civil War re-enactors to gather under the guise of protecting a Robert E. Lee statue there. 'It was a setup for these dumb Civil War re-enactors,' Rohrabacher said. 'It was left-wingers who were manipulating them in order to have this confrontation' and to 'put our president on the spot.'"

Berkeley Boosted Security, Offered Counseling To Students Ahead Of Speech By Ben Shapiro. The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Panzar, Oreskes, Watanabe, 4.49M) reported Thursday that "to see what free speech looks like in 2017 at the birthplace of the famed movement, consider the elaborate preparations underway for a talk Thursday by a conservative writer." Ben Shapiro, adds the Times, "isn't nearly as controversial as some right-wing speakers who have roiled the campus over the last year," yet "UC Berkeley has told students that counseling is available to those stressed by all the commotion." Moreover, "a large swath of the campus will be closed off, including the plaza where the free speech movement began in the 1960s." UC Berkeley chancellor Carol T. Christ "has said allowing these talks is essential, trumpeting the belief that the best response to hate speech is 'more speech' rather than trying to shut down others."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/14, Panzar, Tchekmedyian, 4.49M) reports that as Shapiro spoke, "a large group of protesters marched around the campus amid intense security triggered by a recent series of violent clashes between far-left and far-right protesters." Ultimately, "authorities arrested at least three people for carrying banned weapons," as "before the event, police temporarily banned sticks, pipes, poles and anything else they said could be used to riot." The Times adds that "one of the three held, 20-year-old Hannah Benjamin, was also arrested on suspicion of battery on a police officer, Berkeley police said."

WPost A1: Antifa's Unifying Idea Is That Free Speech Secondary To "Squashing Fascism." On its front page, the Washington Post (9/14, A1, Miller, 10.38M) recalls the "the Aug. 27 protest in Berkeley" that led to "images broadcast across the country" showing how "more than 100 antifa activists leapt over barricades and stormed Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, attacking a handful of...Trump supporters and right-wing activists." In DC, "authorities fear the far-left activists will strike again Saturday, when the Mall will host the 'Juggalo March' – a gathering of fans of the rap group Insane Clown Posse – and a pro-Trump event dubbed the Mother of All Rallies." The Post adds that "interviews with a dozen antifa activists show they come from a variety of backgrounds and are only loosely affiliated. ... While they are all open to using violence, some embrace it – even glorify it." In fact, "what unites them is the belief that free speech is secondary to squashing fascism before it takes root in the United States."

TRUMP TO HOLD CONFERENCE WITH JEWISH LEADERS. The New York Times (9/14, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the President "will hold a conference call on Friday morning with Jewish leaders ahead of the High Holy Days, moving ahead with a standard White House event that several rabbinical groups have vowed to boycott." The Times adds that "issues related to the Jewish community have been problematic for the president throughout his presidency." For example, the Times cites "a statement from the White House on Holocaust Remembrance Day made no mention of the millions of Jews who were killed, instead focusing on 'all' who suffered," and "the president's statement that there were 'very fine people' among the white supremacists rallying in Charlottesville prompted an outcry."

NYTIMES A1: TRUMP "BERATED" SESSIONS AFTER APPOINTMENT OF MUELLER. Citing "current and former administration officials and others briefed on the matter," the New York Times (9/14, A1, Schmidt, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page, "Shortly after learning in May that a special counsel had been appointed to investigate links between his campaign associates and Russia, President Trump berated Attorney General Jeff Sessions in an Oval Office meeting and said the attorney general should resign." Trump, says the Times, "blamed the appointment of [Special Counsel Robert Mueller] on Mr. Sessions's decision to recuse himself from the Justice Department's Russia investigation." The Times adds that "accusing Mr. Sessions of 'disloyalty,' Mr. Trump unleashed a string of insults on his attorney general," who "told the president he would quit and sent a resignation letter to the White House." The Times adds that Sessions "would later tell associates that the demeaning way the



president addressed him was the most humiliating experience in decades of public life."

Maggie Haberman of the New York Times said on <u>CNN's The Lead</u> (9/14, 927K) that the President saw Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigations as "form of a betrayal it seems. In an Oval Office meeting in May, as they were trying to pick a new FBI director, they learned that Robert Mueller had been appointed as special council and the President just unloaded on his attorney general – called him an idiot, said he was one of the worst decisions he made, said he should resign. And Sessions. who got emotional during this, said he would. He left, ultimately produced a letter of resignation. The President then was talked out of accepting [it] by some aides. ... Their relationship has improved to some extent, but it's never going to be what it was. The degree of anger the President has at Jeff Sessions I think is never going to totally abate." <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 979K) also reported on the Times' story.

Cillizza: Sessions Incident Highlights Trump's "Volcanic Temper." Under the heading "The Volcanic Temper Of Donald Trump," Chris Cillizza – writing on the website of CNN (9/14, Cillizza, 33.59M) – highlighted the "stunning" report from the Times, then added, "This temper tantrum from Trump is not an isolated incident. Far from it." Cillizza cited several examples of what he said demonstrated Trump's temper, saying, for instance, that the President "fumed backstage before his Phoenix campaign rally last month as TV cameras showed a less-than-full arena. George Gigicos, who was handling the advance work for the event, was let go as a result of Trump's displeasure." Cillizza added that "Trump's temper is a feature, not a glitch."

USA TODAY ANALYSIS: CONGRESSIONAL PANELS IN RUSSIA PROBE "TRIPPING OVER ONE ANOTHER." Under the headline "Congress Struggles To Figure Out Which Russia Investigation Trumps The Others," <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, Kelly, 8.62M) reports, "The three congressional committees investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election often overlap but rarely coordinate, creating a legal quagmire for witnesses and challenges for...Mueller as he conducts a separate criminal probe." USA Today says the panels "have been tripping over one another in recent months in the competition for witnesses and information. One of the most egregious examples – according to four congressional aides" – happened "in July when investigators for the House Intelligence Committee traveled to London to try to contact Christopher Steele, the former British spy who compiled a dossier on Donald Trump and his alleged ties to the Russian government." GOP members of the panel "did not tell the committee's Democrats, Mueller, or the Senate Intelligence Committee that they were sending two staff investigators to London."

Stone To Appear Before House Intelligence Panel. The AP (9/14, Pace) reports that Roger Stone, a longtime confidante of Trump, "says he will appear before the House intelligence committee on Sept. 26." Stone "says the session is currently closed, though he asked previously for his appearance to be public. He says he's asking for the 'immediate release' of transcripts from his appearance so there will be 'no confusion or misinformation' about his appearance."

Politico (9/14, Cheney, 3.6M) reported that while Stone "has boasted of his connections to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange," he "has denied any improper contacts with Russians or their allies in the course of the 2016 campaign. But Democrats have pointed to his tweets in the summer of 2016 that seemed to presage the mass release of emails by Wikileaks as potential evidence of collusion between Trump associates and Russia." Stone "aroused suspicion in August last year when he claimed to have communicated with Assange" and "also acknowledged exchanging messages with Guccifer 2.0, a persona believed to be the front for Russia's operation to hack the Democratic National Committee." The Hill (9/14, Williams, 1.68M) quoted Stone as saying on Thursday, "I very much look forward to testifying and I am anxious to correct a number of the misstatements by committee members regarding my activities in 2016."

Gowdy Says White House Press Secretary Should Refer Criminal Claims To DOJ. The Washington Times (9/14, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Thursday appearance on Fox News, House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy (R) said that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "should refer criminal allegations to the Department of Justice rather than talk about them with reporters. 'If it's that clean and clear I'm sure she's referred it to the Department of Justice," the South



Carolina lawmaker said, "referring to Ms. Sanders' claim at the White House briefing Wednesday that it was 'pretty clean and clear' that former FBI Director James Comey broke the law by leaking internal FBI memos he wrote after various meetings with President Trump." Gowdy later added, "Alleging criminal violations is very serious, which is why I don't do it. If you have evidence of a crime, instead of sharing it with a gaggle of reporters, share it with the people who can actually do something about it."

AP Analysis: Amid Mueller Investigation, GOP Attacks On Comey Intensify. The AP (9/14, Tucker) reports that GOP "attacks that accompanied the firing of...Comey have sharply intensified in the last two weeks, with broadsides delivered on Twitter, public statements and even from the White House podium." The AP says Comey "has been repeatedly accused of delivering false testimony, of prematurely exonerating Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server and of improperly leaking details about his private conversations with the president. The attacks, which come as Congress and federal investigators probe the circumstances of his dismissal, appear clearly designed to undercut the credibility of" Comey, "whose testimony and vivid first-person accounts loom as central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation."

White House Denies Seeking Anonymous Legal Donations, Despite Ethics Modification. The Washington Examiner (9/14, Nelson, 465K) reported that the White House "denies pushing to allow anonymous donor including lobbyists to fund lawyers for White House staff, but critics fear elimination of a one-sentence disclaimer may make it possible." The Examiner added, "The current concern centers on a long-ignored but never rescinded 1993 legal opinion that said donors to outside legal funds should be kept secret to ensure a recipient 'does not know who the paymasters are.' Since the mid-1990s, the Office of Government Ethics ignored this opinion and instead required legal defense funds to regularly disclosure donors." The Examiner said that then-OGE director Walter Shaub "in May ordered a disclaimer attached to the office's 1993 legal opinion, saying in all caps that it was invalid. After Shaub's resignation, the disclaimer was modified to say the opinion remains in effect."

Rohrabacher Yet To Talk With Trump About What He Learned At Meeting With Assange. The Los Angeles Times (9/14, Wire, 4.49M) reports that Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) on Thursday said "he hasn't yet arranged a meeting with President Trump to discuss what he learned from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange about the theft of Democratic emails during the 2016 election." Rohrabacher told the Times, "The meeting has not been put on the calendar yet, but I have spoken to senior people at the White House about arranging a meeting. I have to believe it will happen, yes. It's an important issue." The Times adds that Rohrabacher last month "traveled to London to meet with Assange, who remains in asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy there. He said they discussed a potential presidential pardon in exchange for information on the theft of emails from the Democratic National Committee, which were published by WikiLeaks before the 2016 presidential election. Rohrabacher said in a statement that Assange 'emphatically stated that the Russians were not involved."

Writing for the <u>San Francisco Chronicle</u> (9/14, Garofoli, 3.31M), Joe Garofoli discusses a recent interview he conducted with Rohrabacher, in which the Republican said of US intelligence agencies having concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, "That story is a total fabrication in order to do one thing: To prevent Donald Trump from exercising the legitimate authority he was given by the voters in the last election."

Castro: Hopefully Social Media Companies Will Cooperate In Dealing With Foreign Meddling. Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), a member of the House Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Committees, said on CNN's Situation Room (9/14, 979K) that from what he's seen, Russia's social media effort in its election interference "was pretty aggressive." He said the exploitation of social media by adversaries is "going to be a problem that we're going to have to really tackle and solve in earnest, and I hope that Facebook and Twitter and other social media platforms will be willing to work with the congress to fix this."

TRUMP RIPS RICE'S UNMASKING OF TRANSITION OFFICIALS AS "JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG." The Washington Times (9/14, Miller, 541K) reports that President Trump on Thursday said that ex-national security adviser Susan Rice's admission "that she unmasked the identities of Trump transition team officials caught up in national security surveillance was 'just the tip of the iceberg,"



condemning "her actions as 'wrong." Rice, who served under President Obama, "told House investigators that she had spy agencies identify Trump officials when the crown prince of the United Arab Emirates visited New York in December, when Mr. Trump was president-elect and the transition was underway." Speaking with reporters on Thursday, Trump said of Rice, "She's not supposed to be doing that and what she did was wrong," adding, "We've been saying that. It's just the tip of the iceberg."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Quinn, 465K) further quoted Trump as saying that Rice wasn't "supposed to be doing that. You know it. The unmasking and the surveillance, and I heard she admitted that yesterday. Just not right." <u>The Hill</u> (9/14, Easley, 1.68M) said, "CNN reported on Wednesday that Rice told House investigators that in December – after Trump had won the election and before his inauguration – she authorized the unmasking of the identities of his advisers Michael Flynn, Stephen Bannon and Jared Kushner in an intelligence report" over their meeting with UAE's crown prince.

Catherine Herridge reported on Fox News' Special Report (9/14, 1.88M) that sources say Rice "offered 'vast and varied' explanations for requesting the names of Trump transition team members" caught up in foreign surveillance. One source reportedly said Rice told lawmakers "she was bothered by a meeting reportedly between Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon, incoming National Security Advisor Mike Flynn, and the United Arab Emirates crown prince. Rice said the Gulf delegation had asked for a meeting with President Obama and then canceled, because they said they weren't coming to the US," but they "then came quietly to see the Trump team." An intelligence official disputed that claim, saying the UAE had asked for a meeting with Obama, but the White House "dropped the ball." According to Herridge, multiple sources say lawmakers found Rice's explanations "dubious."

However, Wolf Blitzer reported on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/14, 979K) that "sources tell CNN that lawmakers, even Republicans, were satisfied with [Rice's] testimony and concluded she didn't do anything improper." Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) told Blitzer, "I can say when she left the room, I think from what I could tell, all of us were convinced that she had acted professionally and well within the law."

Harsanyi: Rice "Lied" About Not Being Aware Of Unmasking Of Trump Officials. Under the heading "Susan Rice Lied About Her Role In Obama Admin Unmasking Scandal," David Harsanyi wrote for The Federalist (9/14, 88K) that in March of this year, then-House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Devin Nunes (R) revealed "that the Obama administration had conducted incidental surveillance collection and unmasking of Trump administration officials," saying, "I have seen intelligence reports that clearly show that the president-elect and his team were, I guess, at least monitored." Harsanyi wrote that Rice, in an interview with PBS on the same day, was "asked to respond to Nunes' accusation that she had unmasked those Trump officials." Asked by NPR if she knew "anything about this," Rice replied, "I know nothing about this. I was surprised to see reports from Chairman Nunes on that count today."

Writing for National Review (9/14, 892K), David French also discussed Rice's response in the NPR interview and added, "Over time, however, her story evolved. She later clarified that she was simply saying that she didn't know 'what reports Nunes was referring to.' In April she said she never did anything "untoward with respect to the intelligence" she received. So, what was the truth? Did she 'know nothing' or did she do nothing 'untoward'? Those aren't the same statements, and the differences matter." French added that Rice "may seek high office again. We have to learn the truth about her conduct in office, and we cannot sweep even one more lie under the rug."

WHITE HOUSE PRESSING STATE TO SPEED UP RELEASE OF CLINTON EMAILS. The Washington Times (9/14, A1, Scarborough, 541K) reports that the White House "has been privately urging the State Department to speed up its protracted process for releasing Hillary Clinton's still-undisclosed emails." That "pressure from the White House may be working. On Thursday, the State Department released a batch of Clinton-related emails that show how she honored requests from Clinton Foundation and campaign donors to pull some strings. The department turned over to Judicial Watch, a government watchdog group, 1,617 pages of documents, including 97 email exchanges not previously disclosed." The Times adds, "The irony is, Trump administration attorneys have been in court defending the State Department's desire for a slow security review process before release, which a district court judge approved."



After Modifying Initial Decision, FBI To Release More Clinton Investigation Documents. In another report, the Washington Times (9/14, Dinan, 541K) says, "Weeks after saying there wasn't enough public interest in...Clinton's email case, the FBI's decision has been modified, and the bureau will publicly release more details of its obstruction of justice probe into the former secretary of state. The Justice Department confirmed the new position in a letter Thursday to Ty Clevenger, a lawyer who'd filed an open-records request for the information." DOJ "official Sean R. O'Neill said after speaking with Mr. Clevenger, they have concluded that the records in question are part of the Clinton email investigation file, which he said they're already making public in installments. 'Any records concerning the FBI's investigation of obstruction of justice are currently being processed by the FBI along with the remainder of the Clinton email investigation file. The FBI is publicly posting all releasable records on a rolling basis,' he said."

Townhall's Pavlich: Clinton, Abedin Emails "Show Further Mishandling Of Classified Information." Writing at Townhall (9/14, 523K), Katie Pavlich said that Judicial Watch has "released a new batch of emails, more than 1600 pages worth, belonging to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and longtime aide Huma Abedin. The emails, released by the State Department as part of a lawsuit, show further mishandling of classified information. The list of egregious incidents is long, including exposure of a classified conversation about US-Israeli relations, the war against drug cartels in Mexico, details about Clinton's arrival in war torn Afghanistan, Afghanistan elections and much more." Pavlich highlighted some of the specific examples listed by Judicial Watch.

Emails: Abedin's Mother Urged Clinton Not To Mention "Freedom" In Saudi Speech. The Washington Times (9/14, Ernst, 541K) reports that according to the batch of emails released by Judicial Watch, former Secretary of State Clinton "and her team refrained from mentioning 'freedom' during a 2010 speech in Saudi Arabia at the behest of Saleha Abedin," Huma Abedin's mother. The Times says Saleha Abedin, "a sociology lecturer at a women's college in Jeddah, helped craft a Feb. 16, 2010, speech that omitted any reference to 'freedom' or 'democracy.' 'Talk to my mom for sure,' Ms. Abedin told speechwriter Case Button on Feb. 12, 2010. 'She will have good points for you...' Saleha Abedin's 'IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER' email sent on the same day included instructions," among others, "Do not use the political terms such as 'democracy/elections/freedom."

White House Press Secretary Dismisses Clinton's "Excuse[s]" For Losing. Asked about Hillary Clinton calling for the elimination of the Electoral College, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/14, 1.9M), "I think Hillary Clinton – this is about the 900th excuse that she's given for why she lost, and I think this book tour has done nothing but prove to America they were right in the decision that they made in putting Donald Trump in the Oval Office and not Hillary Clinton. She has just reidentified all of the reasons that she was not going to be a good candidate and that she wasn't going to be a successful President, and that's why is they chose Donald Trump."

The New Yorker Reveals Cover It Would Have Published Had Clinton Won. The New Yorker on Thursday morning tweeted, "This is the cover we would have published had Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump." The tweet included a link to a brief New Yorker article, published a day earlier, titled, "If Hillary Clinton Had Won: The New Yorker Cover," that showed "the cover 'The First,' by Malika Favre, that the New Yorker would have published had Clinton defeated Donald Trump to become the first female Commander-in-Chief." USA Today (9/14, Miller, 8.62M) reports that the never-to-be "cover depicts Clinton at night staring out a window that appears to be in the Oval Office." After "Trump's election, The New Yorker published Bob Staake's 'The Wall' on its cover, an image of a brick wall, partially built, that covered the lower half of 'New' in the magazine's name."

IN LEAKED MEMO, MCMASTER TELLS AGENCIES TO WARN STAFF AGAINST LEAKING INFORMATION. BuzzFeed (9/13, 6.64M) reports that National Security Adviser McMaster "has directed government departments and agencies to warn employees across the entire federal government next week about the dangers and consequences of leaking even unclassified information." In a memo "obtained by BuzzFeed News...McMaster details a request that 'every Federal Government department and agency' hold a one-hour training next week on 'unauthorized disclosures' – of classified and certain



unclassified information." BuzzFeed calls the move "a dramatic step that could greatly expand what type of leaks are under scrutiny and who will be scrutinized."

MNUCHIN SAYS REQUEST TO USE GOVERNMENT JET WAS BASED ON NEED FOR SECURE COMMUNICATIONS. David Muir reported on ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 9, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin is facing a "firestorm over his personal travel." This, after it was reported that he "asked to take a government plane on his overseas honeymoon" and "another controversial trip on a government plane," after which "his wife post[ed] a photo on Instagram, tagging all the high end designer labels she was wearing during that trip." Brian Ross added that Mnuchin "confirmed the ABC News report that he requested a government aircraft for his European honeymoon last month," but "said it wasn't a question of luxury for him and his wife, Louise, but one of having access to secure communications." President Trump "said he was unaware of the request, that he doubted Mnuchin would have done anything wrong, calling him a straight shooter."

In comments to Politico (9/14, Conway, 3.6M), Mnuchin "described the controversy over the request as overblown." Mnuchin said, "Let me be clear: I'm very sensitive to the use of government funds. ... I've never asked the government to pay for my personal travel, and this was purely about alternatives of how I'd be able to be involved for national security." The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 11, 0:25, Mason, 11.17M) also briefly reported on the controversy.

In an op-ed for <u>USA Today</u> (9/14, 8.62M), Norman Eisen, chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama, writes that "there is already reason to believe that Mnuchin's honeymoon request was another attempt by one of the wealthiest members of the Trump administration to get a government freebie." Eisen argues that the matter must be "assessed in the context of his apparent repeated disregard for other ethics issues" including his failure "to disclose \$100 million in assets from his initial financial disclosure form," his use of his "his government position to promote the Lego Batman movie he produced," and his placement of "his wife in a business position that raised ethics issues until it was reversed." Eisen adds that President Trump "has created the environment for these kinds of serial ethics problems through his own contempt for ethics and law."

SENATE PANEL APPROVES FOUR TRUMP JUDICIAL NOMINEES. The Washington Times (9/14, Swoyer, 541K) reports the Senate Judiciary Committee "advanced four of President Trump's judicial nominees Thursday, including one appeals court pick who won unanimous approval from the panel." The committee "voted 20-0 for District Court Judge Ralph Ericsson for the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals. Senators also approved two of Mr. Trump's district court judges, Donald Coggins Jr. for the District of South Carolina and Dabney Friedrich for the District of Columbia, by voice votes." However, "the committee was more divided on Stephen Schwartz, Mr. Trump's nominee for the US Court of Federal Claims, clearing him on an 11-9 party-line vote" after Democrats claimed he lacked enough legal experience.

ADMINISTRATION MAY REPLACE OBAMA CLIMATE RULE RATHER THAN REPEAL IT. Politico (9/14, Holden, 3.6M) reports that the Trump Administration is indicating that it may offer "its own replacement for former President Barack Obama's landmark climate regulation — rather than just erasing it altogether." Politico cites "a source close to the process" who said that the EPA "aims by early October to issue a proposal to undo Obama's climate rule, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement." Politico adds that while such a "mend-it-don't-end-it approach on Obama's 2015 rule could appease power companies that say the EPA needs to impose some kind of climate regulation," it "would run afoul of demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the idea that climate change is a problem requiring federal action."

TRUMP TO SPEND MAJORITY OF WEEK IN NYC AT PALACE HOTEL. Politico (9/14, Karni, 3.6M) reports that when President Trump returns to Manhattan next week, he is "scheduled to spend more time at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel than at his own Trump Tower." A draft schedule shared with New York City law enforcement shows that Trump "will arrive at his home in Trump Tower on Sunday afternoon," but "is set to spend the majority of his week holed up in meetings at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel, on Madison Avenue." White House staff will be work "out of the hotel, which will also serve



as central command for the State Department and the setting for many of the US-hosted bilateral meetings, a source familiar with the planning for the General Assembly said."

DOW SETS RECORD AS S&P AND NASDAQ SLIDE. The Dow reached a record high Thursday while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq "moved lower after a Labor Department report showed consumer prices rose more than expected in August," Reuters (9/14) reports. The Dow "rose 0.2 percent to end at 22,203.48 points, while the S&P 500 lost 0.11 percent to 2,495.62" and the Nasdaq "dropped 0.48 percent to 6,429.08."

ROSENSTEIN SIGNALS UPCOMING CHANGES ON CORPORATE-CRIME PROSECUTION POLICY.

Politico (9/14, Gerstein, 3.6M) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "indicated Thursday that the federal government's policy on prosecuting corporate crime is under review and he suggested that changes to the department's stance on the issue are coming. 'It's under review and I anticipate that there may be some change to the policy on corporate prosecutions," Rosenstein said "during a question-and-answer session following a speech at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington." Rosenstein added, "I don't have any announcement about that today, but I do anticipate that we may in the near future make an announcement about what changes we're going to make to corporate fraud principles." According to Politico, the Justice Department's current policy, "announced by Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates in September 2015, aimed to increase prosecutions of individuals responsible for criminal acts committed during work for corporations."

POMPEO CANCELS HARVARD SPEECH AFTER CHELSEA MANNING NAMED FELLOW. The AP (9/14, Riechmann) reports that CIA Director Pompeo canceled his planned Thursday appearance at Harvard University "over the school's decision to make Chelsea Manning, who was convicted of leaking classified information, a visiting fellow." Pompeo called Manning an "American traitor," and "said he agreed with military and intelligence officials who believe Manning's leak endangered the lives of CIA personnel."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Corell, 465K) reports that Pompeo wrote in a letter on Thursday, "After much deliberation in the wake of Harvard's announcement of American traitor Chelsea Manning as a visiting fellow at the Institute of Politics, my conscience and duty to the men and women at the Central Intelligence Agency will not permit me to betray their trust by appearing to support Harvard's decision with my appearance at tonight's event." The <u>Boston Herald</u> (9/14, 404K) reports that Pompeo, "who has a law degree from Harvard, said he didn't make the decision lightly."

Morell Resigns Harvard Post. The Washington Times (9/14, Richardson, 541K) reports that former CIA Acting Director Michael Morell on Thursday resigned as a non-resident senior fellow from Harvard's Kennedy School after Chelsea Manning was named a visiting fellow. In his resignation letter, Morell said he could not be part of an organization that "honors a convicted felon and leaker of classified information."

The Hill (9/14, Beavers, 1.68M) reports that while Morell "acknowledged that his fellowship through the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs is different from the school's Institute of Politics, he said he has 'an obligation' to...his conscience and country to 'make the fundamental point that leaking classified information is disgraceful and damaging to our nation."

The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/14, 521K) reports CIA Director Pompeo "applauded" Morell for resigning his post in a letter Pompeo sent Thursday announcing his cancellation of an upcoming Harvard speech following Manning's fellowship invitation. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/14, Correll, 465K) reports that Mitt Romney also "praised" Morell for his decision, <u>tweeting</u>, "Well done, Mike. And abject shame on Harvard."

<u>Politico</u> (9/14, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that Manning "cheered Morell's exit, tweeting 'good.' She later pinned a <u>tweet</u> to her Twitter page: 'no more secrecy, surveillance, torture, murder, and genocide,' it reads. 'abolish the @cia.'"

Following Protests, Harvard Withdraws Fellowship For Manning. Following protests from Pompeo and Morell, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government early on Friday morning withdrew its invitation for



Chelsea Manning to be a visiting fellow. CNN (9/14, Lang, Watkins, 598K) reports that the school "withdrew the offer early Friday morning following controversy." Dean Douglas Elmendorf said in a statement, according to NBC News (9/15, 3.46M), "I now think that designating Chelsea Manning as a visiting fellow was a mistake, for which I accept responsibility. I still think that having her speak in the Forum and talk with students is consistent with our longstanding approach, which puts great emphasis on the value of hearing from a diverse collection of people. But I see more clearly now that many people view a Visiting Fellow title as an honorific, so we should weigh that consideration when offering invitations." Still, the New York Post (9/15, Tacopino, 4.31M) reports that Harvard "invited the convicted leaker to give a talk at the school."

MCCONNELL-BACKED GROUP'S POLL SHOWS MOORE LEADING STRANGE 41%-40%. In a report on the Alabama special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions, the Washington Examiner (9/14, Drucker, 465K) said that a survey of 604 likely Republican primary voters, conducted Sept. 9-10 by GOP pollster Jan van Lohuize, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore leading appointed Sen. Luther Strange 41%-40% in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff. The poll was commissioned by the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC operated by allies of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who – along with President Trump – is backing Strange in the election. The report did not say how many voters were undecided. The Examiner added, "The RealClearPolitics average of recent polls in this race show Moore with a more substantial lead, 44.4 percent to 33.4 percent." The Huntsville (AL) Times (9/14, Gattis, 734K) reports, "Other polls independent of the SLF has consistently had Moore with a double-digit lead over Strange. No poll since the Aug. 15 primary has reflected Strange in the lead."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/14, McLaughlin, 541K) reports, "Backed by evangelical voters and riding a wave of anti-Washington sentiment...Moore is surging in the" contest, "threatening to upend the GOP establishment." The Times says that Moore, who polls show leading Strange, "won the backing this week of a political action committee that boosted President Trump in last year's campaign. But the endorsement by Great American PAC is all the more stunning because Mr. Trump has endorsed Mr. Strange in the race."

Moore: 9/11 Attacks May Have Been Punishment For US Spurning God. On its website, CNN (9/14, Kaczynski, McDermott, 33.59M) reported that Moore "suggested earlier this year that the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks might have happened because the US had distanced itself from God." CNN added that in a video of Moore addressing the Open Door Baptist Church in February, he "quotes verses from the Old Testament's Book of Isaiah," saying, "Because you have despised His word and trust in perverseness and oppression, and say thereon...therefore this iniquity will be to you as a breach ready to fall, swell out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instance." Moore "added: 'Sounds a little bit like the Pentagon, whose breaking came suddenly at an instance, doesn't it?"

Drawing from the CNN report, The Hill (9/14, Manchester, 1.68M) quoted Moore as further saying, "If you think that's coincidence, if you go to verse 25, 'there should be up on every high mountain and upon every hill rivers and streams of water in the day of the great slaughter when the towers will fall." Moore then added, "You know, we've suffered a lot in this country, maybe, just maybe, because we've distanced ourselves from the one that has it within his hands to heal this land." He "went on to say that God could be upset with Americans for legitimizing sodomy and abortion."

Palin To Stump For Moore In Alabama. In an "exclusive," Breitbart (9/13, Boyle, 2.42M) reported that Sarah Palin will travel to Alabama next week to stump for Moore. Breitbart said, "The event with Palin will be part of a bus tour put on by the Great America Alliance, an organization of grassroots activists solidly in support of the agenda President Trump campaigned on last year." Breitbart quoted "a source familiar with" Palin's plans as saying that she "plans to barnstorm Alabama the week prior to the special election to double down on her strongly stated support of Judge Moore."

NRCC OFFICIAL SAYS THERE'S "NO INDICATION" TRUMP WILL WADE INTO GOP HOUSE PRIMARIES. Politico (9/14, Tamborrino, 3.6M) reported, "There is 'no indication' that the White House will intervene in House GOP primaries," National Republican Congressional Committee political director Joe Pileggi told Politico on Thursday. While President Trump "has gone after GOP Senate members – namely



Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, who" faces reelection next year, Pileggi "said the idea of Trump intervening in the House field was 'hypothetical,' adding that 'there is no indication that is happening." Pileggi also told Politico, "We have a great relationship with the White House."

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS SPENDING \$2M ON DIGITAL ADS AIMED AT BOOSTING NORTHAM.

Politico (9/14, Robillard, 3.6M) reported, "A slew of liberal groups are teaming up for a \$2 million digital ad buy aiming to drive Virginia voters to the polls in November and" support Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) in his bid to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D). Politico said, "Planned Parenthood Votes and Planned Parenthood Virginia PAC, the Tom Steyer-backed Next Gen America, Priorities USA and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters PAC are all contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the effort, which will begin this week and run until Election Day. The ads will aim to reach and turn out more than 1.2 million voters." Northam is battling ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R) in this fall's general election.

Gun-Control Group Providing Northam With \$700K In Financial Support. Meanwhile, the Washington Post (9/14, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports that Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund, "the campaign arm of one of the nation's biggest gun control groups, announced Thursday that it would spend at least \$1 million in Virginia as part of an 'initial investment' to elect Democrats in November. The fund is donating \$450,000 directly to...Northam...and spending \$250,000 on mailers on his behalf. It's also giving \$300,000 to Attorney General Mark Herring for his re-election bid, as he faces attack advertising from the National Rifle Association."

POLL: 50% OF VOTERS SAY MENENDEZ DOESN'T DESERVE REELECTION IN 2018. Politico (9/14, Tat, 3.6M) reported that in a Quinnipiac University poll 1,121 New Jersey voters, taken Sept. 7-12, 50% of those surveyed said that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) – in the midst of a federal corruption trial – "does not deserve to be reelected next year," while 20% "said he should be re-elected"; 30% "were undecided." According to the poll, Menendez's job-approval rating stands at 31%, "his lowest rating since February 2008, when he had 30 percent approval."

68% Of Voters Don't Want Christie To Choose Menendez Successor. The Washington Post (9/14, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that in the survey, "when asked what should happen 'if Senator Menendez is forced to leave the Senate' as a result of his corruption trial," 68% said Menendez "should be replaced not by someone picked by Gov. Chris Christie (R) but by whomever is elected to replace Christie in November." Ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) is heavily favored to win this fall's race to succeed Christie. The Post adds, "Were Menendez to leave before Jan. 16, Christie would choose his replacement." The Hill (9/14, Greenwood, 1.68M) reported that just 3% of those surveyed think "Christie should appoint himself to fill Menendez's seat, in the event that the senior New Jersey senator resigns or is forced out following his corruption trial."

At Menendez Trial, Prosecutors Focus On Timing Of Menendez Flight Reimbursements.

Meanwhile, in coverage of Thursday's developments in the trial of Menendez and his longtime friend and donor, Florida eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Politico (9/14, Friedman, 3.6M) said that Menendez "did not reimburse" Melgen "for two round-trip flights on his private jet until a reporter started asking questions, according to testimony." Politico added, "The prosecution introduced a November 1, 2012 email from Washington Post reporter Paul Kane, asking [a Menendez aide] about a trip to the Dominican Republican that had surfaced in news reports just days before the senator was to stand for re-election." Politico added that testimony yesterday indicated that while the trips in question took place in 2010, Menendez didn't reimburse Melgen for the flights until 2013.

The New York Post (9/14, Whitehouse, 4.31M) reports that prosecutors showed the "jury a \$58,500 check Menendez paid [Melgen] for two round-trip flights he took in 2010 on the wealthy eye doctor's private jet. Prosecutors made a point, however, of noting that the check was written in Jan. 2013 – following a 2012 inquiry from a Washington Post reporter about those very same flights. ... A separate document showed that Menendez was also only billed for the 2010 flights by Melgen's son-in-law after newspaper's Nov. 2012 inquiry."



GOP-Aligned Group's New Website Tracking Menendez's Missed Senate Votes During Trial. The New York Post (9/14, Schultz, 4.31M) reports that the GOP-aligned group America Rising PAC has "created a new site dedicated to tracking just how many votes Menendez is missing in Washington because of his ongoing federal trial in Newark. As of Thursday afternoon, the site — www.howmanyvoteshasmenendezmissed.com — has tracked eight missed votes. 'This is just the first week and there's no telling how long this trial is going to go,' said Alex Smith, executive director of America Rising PAC. 'There are important legislative priorities that are coming up this fall and I think the Garden State is definitely going to be missing out on one of its votes.'"

HEAD OF AFP'S TENNESSEE CHAPTER ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CORKER'S SEAT. The AP (9/14, Schelzig) reports that "conservative activist" Andy Ogles (R) on Thursday announced that he will run for Senate next year. Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), who faces reelection in 2018, "has so far refused to divulge whether he will seek a third term. Ogles heads the Tennessee chapter of Americans for Prosperity, a group funded by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch."

MICHIGAN'S EL-SAYED BIDDING TO BECOME NATION'S FIRST MUSLIM GOVERNOR. In an online report headlined "Can This Doctor Become The 1st Muslim Governor In US History," ABC News (9/14, Verhovek, 2.83M) profiled ex-Detroit Health Department chief Abdul El-Sayed (D), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R). ABC News said that the "32-year-old physician, Rhodes Scholar...became youngest person to lead a major American city's health department when, at the age of 30, he was brought in to rebuild Detroit's Health Department after the city went bankrupt." ABC News added that if victorious, El-Sayed, "the son of Egyptian immigrants," would become "America's first Muslim governor." Most political observers view ex-state Sen. Gretchen Whitmer (D) as the frontrunner in the crowded Democratic primary.

STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHIEF SAYS REP. CASTRO "CONSIDERING" RUN AGAINST ABBOTT. The Dallas Morning News (9/14, Jeffers, Writer, 984K) reports, "In need of someone to lead the top of the 2018 ticket, Democrats are trying to convince" Rep. Joaquín Castro (D) to challenge Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) in next year's election. Speaking with the Morning News, state Democratic Party chief Gilberto Hinojosa said of Castro, "He and others are considering it. It's a very big decision for him. It would require him to leave his safe seat in the US House, where he's a rising star." The Austin (TX) American Statesman (9/14, Tilove, Subscription Publication, 431K) reports that in an interview, Hinojosa said of a Castro run for governor, "He's never ruled it out." The American-Statesman adds that asked last month about a possible gubernatorial bid, Castro said, "Well I have a job right now and my plan is to run for re-election."

"THE UPSHOT" ANALYSIS: FOR DEMOCRATS TO BENEFIT, MILLENNIALS NEED TO TURN OUT AT HIGHER RATES. Writing in "The Upshot" on the website of the New York Times (9/14, Morris, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), G. Elliott Morris, a student at the University of Texas, who covers House elections for Decision Desk HQ, said, "Young Americans have been moving left and leaving the G.O.P. in recent years, but a successful Democratic coalition built on the backs of liberal youth is far from a sure thing," due to millennials' history of turning out in lower numbers than older voters. Morris added, "The 2020 election is supposed to be the first presidential race in which millennials outnumber baby boomers," but last year's "turnout numbers...offer a stark reminder: Boomers, who lean Republican, turned out to vote at a rate 23 percentage points higher than that of millennials. ... Unless that changes, boomers, though they may be outnumbered by millennials, may continue to decide their future."

UNDER TRUMP, ACLU AND SPLC SEE BIG INCREASE IN WORKPLACE DONATIONS. The Washington Post (9/14, McGregor, 10.38M) reports that since President Trump's election, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center have seen a "major" increase in workplace donations, according to Benevity – a company that "says it helps about 250 of Fortune 1000 companies manage their employee giving and corporate matching gift programs." According to Benevity's ranking, the ACLU "went from sixth place in 2016 to the top spot for the first time" this year, and the SPLC went from 17th in 2016 to ninth now. Benevity CEO Bryan de Lottinville "said the shift reflects more event-driven donations tied to political news over the past year."



JOHNSON, MCCASKILL CRITICIZE WASTE, FRAUD IN LOW-INCOME PHONE PROGRAM. Reuters (9/14, Shepardson) reports that Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) said Thursday that Congress should consider ending the decades-old federal subsidy for telephones and Internet access for low-income Americans – a \$1.5 billion program called "Lifeline" – following a recent Government Accountability Office audit that "found significant fraud in the program." In addition to fraud, investigators "could not confirm whether more than 1.2 million individuals sampled actually qualified" and "could not confirm how many of the 12.3 million participants enrolled received phones." Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) also said "the combination of ineffective oversight and the greed of some private carriers has led to hundreds of millions in wasted taxpayer dollars."

GOOGLE HIT WITH GENDER DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT. The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, story 12, 0:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported that "three women who used to work for Google sued the company today for discrimination," claiming that Google "pays women less than men for similar work and assigns female workers jobs less likely to lead to promotions."

NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 6, 1:45, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the lawsuit accuses Google "of paying women less than their male counterparts and also denying them promotions." NBC (Kent) added that three former employees, Kelly Ellis, Holly Pease and Kelli Wisuri, "say Google's failure to pay female employees the same for substantially similar work has been and is willful." In an email to NBC News, Google "denied the claim, saying, we disagree with the central allegations. We have extensive systems in place to ensure that we pay fairly. If we ever see individual discrepancies or problems, we work to fix them." NBC added that "Google's workforce is made up of 69 percent men and 31 percent women," and that "earlier this year, the Labor Department sued Google, also alleging compensation data revealed systemic compensation disparities against women across the workforce." Google "has also denied those allegations."

FTC INVESTIGATING EQUIFAX BREACH. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 13, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported the Federal Trade Commission is now investigating the Equifax data breach. Additionally, the Apache Software Foundation "now says that Equifax neglected to address" the breach "for two months after learning about" a software vulnerability.

The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/14, story 10, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M) reported the ASF "says hackers exploited what it called Equifax's failure to install the security updates" to a software vulnerability on a web server "in a timely manner." ASF executive Michael Landoway called the update "urgent," adding, "The fact that there was an unpatched server for a matter of months, just opened the door to the hackers." Landoway said among experts, the bigger question is whether the consumer data was protected through encryption. He said, "If it was unencrypted, there's really nothing that can be done from this point on. Now the hackers are buying and selling everything there is to know about our identity on the dark web."

NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported MasterCard and Visa "are notifying banks that 200,000 of their customer credit card numbers were among those lost."

OBAMA FOUNDATION HOLDS OUTREACH MEETING. The <u>Chicago Sun-Times</u> (9/14, Hinton, 742K) reports that the Obama Foundation held a public outreach meeting Thursday in Chicago that drew supporters and opponents of its project to create a presidential center in the city's Jackson Park. After hearing from a team of top foundation members and "a skyped-in Obama," the audience asked questions about how the center would benefit the community through jobs and training, while protecting affordable housing.

ONE DEAD, SEVEN INJURED IN FT. BRAGG TRAINING ACCIDENT. ABC World News Tonight (9/14, story 7, 0:25, Muir, 14.63M) reported that eight military personnel were injured Thursday during a demolitions training accident in Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. The training involved members of US Army Special Operations Forces. All eight personnel were taken to hospitals, but one "did not survive."

The NBC Nightly News (9/14, story 9, 1:30, Holt, 16.61M) reported the military is investigating the accidental explosion at Ft. Bragg, in addition to the accident on Wednesday at Camp Pendleton in San



Diego that left 15 injured – with eight "seriously injured" – after an amphibious assault vehicle caught fire. Sen. John McCain was shown saying, "We now have many more accidents due to the lack of readiness and training and maintenance than we do in combat. We are asking them to do too much with too little. The result is an overworked strained force with aging equipment and not enough of it."

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL SHOOTER POSTED VIDEO OF HIMSELF ACTING OUT SHOOTINGS. The CBS Evening News (9/14, story 9, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) reported that the student accused of shooting fellow classmates at a high school south of Spokane, Washington "had previously posted online videos of himself acting out shootings." A YouTube video posted in June showed the suspected shooter, Caleb Sharpe, "role playing in a first-person shooting game with toy guns." Additionally, a newly released affidavit "says Caleb told detectives he came to school yesterday to teach everyone a lesson about what happens when you bully others." The affidavit also says friends of Sharpe said he had made "improvised explosive devices out of various chemicals and white gas" in the past. The shooting left one dead and three injured.

Gun Safety Advocate: Gun Laws Should Prevent Suicide-Prone From Getting Firearms. In a Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) op-ed, "gun safety advocate" Nancy Taylor writes that gun laws need to change to prevent those at risk for suicide from acquiring them. Observing that about "nine out of 10 suicide attempts with a gun are lethal," she recounts the story of her husband, who insisted on purchasing a firearm for home defense but eventually used the gun to commit suicide.

WEINER'S ATTORNEYS QUESTION CREDIBILITY, MOTIVATION OF SEXTING VICTIM. The New York Times (9/14, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports attorneys for former Rep. Anthony Weiner, who "faces sentencing in a sexting case that involved a 15-year-old girl, wrote to the judge this week seeking probation for their client." The attorneys "made it clear that he had no excuse for his conduct," but "they also raised questions about the credibility and motivation of the teenage victim," arguing that "she not only had a profit motive for making contact with Mr. Weiner and exchanging lewd texts and images with him, but that she also said she had sought to influence the presidential election." The attorneys "made it clear that such information could have an impact on the judge's assessment of the nature and circumstances of Mr. Weiner's crime, and of course on the ultimate sentence."

COLUMNISTS TAKE ISSUE WITH DEMOCRATS' QUESTIONING OF BARRETT. A pair of columns take issue with the questioning of judicial nominee and Notre Dame Law School professor Amy Coney Barrett by Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Michael Gerson writes in the Washington Post (9/14, Gerson, 10.38M) that in questioning Barrett, some Democrats on the committee "displayed a confusion of the intellect so profound, a disregard for constitutional values so reckless, that it amounts to anti-religious bigotry." Gerson argues that "liberal thinking...seeks to declare secular ideas the only valid basis for public engagement." In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (9/13, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), C.C. Pecknold, an associate professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, also criticizes the Democrats' line of questioning and argues that it was in pursuit of a politically progressive civil religion to which they expect other religions to adhere.

WPOST: KOBACH IS A FRAUD, NOT NEW HAMPSHIRE VOTERS. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/14, 10.38M) writes that Kris Kobach's recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have "no evidence" to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that "more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver's licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally." The Post argues that the "real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats."

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 13 Oct 2017 11:49:04 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 13,

2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 13, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

ARKANSAS BLUE CROSS SUES CMS OVER DRUG PLAN ENROLLMENT PENALTY. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (10/12, Davis, 319K) reports Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield has filed a lawsuit over a decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to bar the insurer from enrolling new customers in its Medicare prescription drug plans this year for "failing to meet a requirement established under the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." The ACA requires that at least 85 percent of the money a company "collects in drug plan subsidies and premiums go toward customers' drug expenses, rather than administrative expenses or profits."

FUNDING DISPUTE PUTS TEXAS' CHIP CHILDREN AT RISK. The <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (10/12, Kelly, 984K) reports that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission estimated last week that its funds for the Children's Health Insurance Program will run out in January, rather than February, because of Hurricane Harvey, as lawmakers in Washington debate how to reauthorize funding. The article says that lawmakers from both parties "support funding CHIP," and cites comments by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), and Rep Joe Barton (R-TX) on the cuts to offset the funding. The Morning News adds that "child health advocates across the political spectrum are wary of cutting other health care programs."

NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + <u>Trump Signs Executive Order Which Would Roll Back Some ACA Provisions.</u>
- + Trump To End Cost-Sharing Reduction Subsidies.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + Trump Accused Of Slowly Rolling Back ACA.
- + Eric Hargan Named Acting HHS Secretary.
- + House Watchdog Report Says Rep. Collins' Advocacy For Biotech Firm May Have Broken Ethics Rules.
- + OMB Reviewing HHS Proposal To Delay Common Rule Updates For One Year.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Ohio's Democratic Delegation Accuses Trump Administration Of Not Helping With ACA Enrollment.
- + Nearly Four In 10 US Adults Are Obese, CDC Statistics Show.
- + Experts Say Access To Contraception "Does Not Lead To Riskier Sexual Behavior."
- + Some Experts Warning Flu Epidemics In Other Countries Could Cause Shortage Of Key Medical Supplies In US.
- + NIH, NCI Announce New \$215 Million Partnership With 11 Pharmaceutical Companies To Advance Immunotherapy.
- + Senate Dems Call On NIH To Renew Gun Violence Research Funding.



- + NIH Director Collins Speaks At Alma Mater.
- + Ovarian Reserve Fertility Tests May Be Ineffective In Predicting Chance Of Conception.
- + New HHS Strategic Plan Defines Life As Beginning At Conception.
- + HIMSS Requests Assistance From HHS In Improving Secure Health Data Exchange.
- + Column: Gottlieb Would Benefit FDA More Than HHS.
- + FDA Approves Record Number Of Generic Drugs.
- + Pharmaceutical Company Targets Older Adults In Marketing Treatment For PBA.
- + Op-Ed Warns Against Ethical Concerns Stymieing Gene Editing Advancements.
- + FDA Microbiologists Find "Deadly" Bacteria In NECC Medications.
- + Opinion: FDA's Delay Of New Food Label Is Bad For Public Health.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + Trump Administration's Efforts To "Weaken" ACA Highlighted.
- + Executive Order Could Benefit Some Insurers, Hurt Others.
- + Democrats Respond To Trump's Move To End CSR Payments.
- + States Threaten To Sue Administration Over Healthcare Subsidies.
- + Paul Ryan Backs Trump's Decision To End ACA Subsidies.
- + GOP Lawmakers Vow To Continue ACA Repeal Efforts.
- + White House Official Says ACA Repeal Efforts May Resume In The Spring.
- + Document Suggests Trump Administration May Continue To Enforce ACA's Coverage Mandate.
- + ACA Insurance Rates To Increase 36 Percent In Wisconsin.
- + Massachusetts' Health Connector Rates To Increase 8.7 Percent.
- + Experts Say Trump's Association Health Plans Could Violate Federal Employee Benefits Law.
- + After Trump's Decision On Subsidies, Focus Turns To Bipartisan Negotiations.
- + Colorado Insurance Commissioner Says Trump's Executive Order "Will Cause Problems."
- + Trump Executive Order Could Cost Delaware Customers.
- + Anthem Agrees To Reduce Premium Increase After California Regulator Challenge.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + Experts Suggest Banning Some Painkillers, Ramping Up Law Enforcement To Curb Opioid Epidemic.
- + Trump Administration Finalizing Rule To Mandate Opioid Testing For Some Transportation Workers.
- + Opioid Epidemic Preys On Vulnerable Bronx Residents.
- + Senators Warren, Murkowski Criticize Trump For Failing To Make Emergency Declaration On Opioids.
- + Illinois' New Opioid Task Force Commences Listening Tour.
- + About 26 Million People Die In Pain Annually Amid Palliative Care Gap, Report Says.
- + Wayne, Oakland Counties Sue Drugmakers Over Opioid Epidemic.
- + Editorial: Virginia Counties Working Together To Tackle Opioid Abuse.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Arizona Physician Accused Of Forging Adderall Prescriptions.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Rubio Requests Senate Investigation Of Florida Nursing Home After 14 Residents' Deaths.
- + <u>Maryland Among Worst-Performing States In Investigating Nursing Home Complaints By Deadline, OIG Report Finds.</u>
- + Retirees Spending One-Third Of Social Security Income On Medical Costs, Study Finds.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:

+ Staff, Patients At Washington Facility For Homeless Veterans Face "Noxious Gas Exposure."

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS:

+ <u>House Oversight Committee Investigates HHS' Hurricane Preparedness And Response Efforts In Caribbean Territories.</u>

NUTRITION & OBESITY:



+ Chicago-Area Soda Tax Repeal May Shift Fight In Beverage Industry's Favor.

MEDICARE:

+ CMS Terminates Florida Nursing Home's Medicare Program.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Michigan Gov. Snyder Defends Legionnaires' Outbreak Testimony, State Medicaid Costs.
- + Opinion: Maine Voters Should Oppose Medicaid Expansion.
- + New Hampshire Gov. Sununu Defends Medicaid Costs.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + FDA Panel Recommends Approval Of Experimental Gene Therapy Treatment For Leber's Congenital Amaurosis.
- + Researchers Identify Genetic Variations Affecting Skin Color That Are Spread Around The World.
- + Potential Benefits Of Federally-Funded Gun Research Discussed.
- + Liquid Biopsy Of Retinoblastoma May Be Possible, Study Suggests.
- + Some Cancer Researchers Using Al To Develop New Treatments.
- + Analysis: Cancer Increasingly Being Viewed By Cause Rather Than Location.
- + Column: Patients Struggle With Firing Their Doctors.
- + LATimes Interviews Chief Medical Officer Of American Cancer Society About Cancer Research.
- + More Patients, Physicians Treating Cancer Like A Chronic Illness.
- + Veterans Are More Likely To Reveal Post-Traumatic Stress To A Virtual Bot, Study Suggests.
- + Bipartisan Bill To Create A National Diabetes Commission Heads To Trump's Desk.
- + Florida Detects Its First Zika Infection Caused By A Mosquito In 2017.
- + One-Third Of Teens Believe Smoking Marijuana And Driving Is Legal In Some States, Survey Suggests.
- + FDA Declines To Approve Opioid Pain Medication.
- + Third Pole Device Can Help Newborns Breathe Without Bulky Equipment.
- + Lawsuit Claims Steroid Alternative Is More Dangerous Than Advertised.
- + Requiring Prescription Drug Ads To List All Possible Side Effects Leads Consumers To Pay Less Attention To Most Serious Side Effects, Study Finds.
- + American Hospital Association Report Defends Hospitals' Federal Tax Exemptions.
- + FDA Expands Clearance For NuVasive's Precice Limb Lengthening System.
- + Delaware Officials Announce First Case Of Human West Nile Virus Infection Since 2015.
- + Even Slightly Early Birth May Be Associated With Worse Cardiorespiratory Fitness, Study Suggests.
- + Public CPR Training May Help More Victims Of Cardiac Arrest Survive, Study Suggests.
- + Tips Provided On How To Limit Kids' Smartphone Use.
- + Op-Ed: David Brooks Bemoans Lack Of New Institutions To Solve Current Issues In The US.
- + <u>Using CRISPR Gene Editing, Researchers Stop Sperm Production In Mice.</u>
- + Analysis: Alzheimer's Disease Has A Personal Cost.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + In Rare Public Statement, Kelly Denies Tension With Trump.
- + Trump: Federal Relief Workers Won't Be In Puerto Rico Forever.
- + House Approves \$36.5 Billion Aid Package.
- + Reporter Highlights Aid Groups' Difficulties Delivering Supplies.
- + EPA Orders Two Companies To Clean Up Toxic Waste Site Flooded By Harvey.
- + NYTimes Analysis: House Democrats Likely To Continue Futile Efforts To Impeach Trump.
- + "Senior White House Official": Trump Attorneys May Offer Mueller A Meeting With President.
- + Gillespie, White House In "Serious Talks" To Have President Stump For Candidate.
- + Short Explains Trump's "Frustration" With Media.
- + CNN Analysis: Zinke's Travel Continues To Raise Questions About Ethics.
- + Perry Defends Travel Using Private Plane.
- + House Democrats Seek To Expand Whistleblower Protections For Reporting Travel Expenses.
- + Kelly Says Trump Plans More Fed Interviews.
- + Ross Seeks Another \$3.3 Billion For 2020 Census.



- + Trump Failed To Salute Flag During Military Ceremony.
- + NYTimes Analysis: Labor Law May Favor NFL Players In Anthem Protests.
- + In Tweets To Bezos, McGowan Says She Told Amazon Studios She Was Raped By Weinstein.
- + Feinstein: Republicans About To Expand White House Power By Ending Blue Slip Tradition.
- + Wray Says Motive For Las Vegas Shooting Still Unclear.
- + McClatchy: Democrats Seeking To Link GOP Candidates To Bannon.
- + Poll: Republican Moore Leads Jones 49%-41% In Dec. 12 Special Election.
- + In Ad, Flake Primary Foe Ward Calls For Tax Reform.
- + Scarborough Tweets That He's Left The GOP.
- + Donnelly Raises \$1.3M, In Q3, Has \$4.6M Banked For Reelection Race.
- + McCaskill Raises \$2.9M In Third Quarter, Has \$7.1M Cash In Hand.
- + Baldwin Raises \$2.4M In Q3, Has \$5.3M In Campaign War Chest.
- + Politico Analysis: Prosecution's Case Against Menendez Seems To Have Fallen Short.
- + GOP Sen. Collins To Reveal Decision On Maine Governor's Race Today.
- + NRCC Shatters Its Fundraising Record For "Any Previous Off-Year Cycle."
- + "Senior House Republicans" Unhappy With Grimm's Primary Challenge To Donovan.
- + Stumping For Murphy, Biden Rips Guadagno Ad As "The Return Of Willie Horton."
- + California Wildfires Continue, With Death Toll Reaching 29.
- + California Secession Group Says Process Would Be Easier Than Catalonia's From Spain.
- + Group Urges Chief Justice Roberts To Reprimand Gorsuch For Speech.
- + Google Unveils Job Training Program, Pledges \$1 Billion Toward Education, Training.
- + Filming Of Eminem's Anti-Trump Video Detailed.
- + Scaramucci, Fox News' Guilfoyle Reportedly Dating.
- + Hiaasen Offers "White House Guidelines For Name-Calling."
- + U Of Michigan Student Defends Inviting Murray To Speak On Campus.
- + WPost: Let White Nationalists March Amid Public Revulsion.

Leading the News:

TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER WHICH WOULD ROLL BACK SOME ACA PROVISIONS. This morning, there is extensive television, print, and online coverage of President Trump's signing of an executive order which seeks to "circumvent" certain parts of the Affordable Care Act. While advocates of the move say it will expand coverage options and lower premiums, critics warn that it will "sabotage" the ACA and harm the individual market, ultimately resulting in higher costs for consumers.

The New York Times (10/12, A1, Pear, Abelson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page that on Thursday, President Trump signed an executive order which "clears the way for potentially sweeping changes in health insurance, including sales of cheaper policies with fewer benefits and fewer protections for consumers than those mandated under the Affordable Care Act." Trump said, "With these actions...we are moving toward lower costs and more options in the health care market, and taking crucial steps toward saving the American people from the nightmare of Obamacare." The article says this move is a result of Trump's "frustration" with congressional Republicans' failure to repeal the ACA.

In a front-page article, the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/13, A1, Goldstein, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports that the order aims "to circumvent the Affordable Care Act." The article says this "order represents Trump's biggest step to date to reverse the health-care policies of the Obama administration, a central promise since last year's presidential campaign." The White House and Trump supporters portrayed this "move as wielding administrative powers to accomplish what congressional Republicans have failed to achieve: fostering more coverage choices while tearing down the law's insurance marketplaces." But critics warned the order will hurt the individual insurance market, and ultimately result in higher premiums.

NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 7, 1:55, Holt, 16.61M) reported the President is "beginning to dismantle his predecessor's signature achievement by unveiling plans...to allow small businesses and individuals to buy insurance that does not meet the minimum Obamacare requirements. But there are critics who say it will only drive prices up, hurting older Americans or those with medical conditions." NBC's Tom Costello



said the "order takes direct aim at Obamacare's minimum coverage rules," adding that "healthy 20-somethings with no kids who aren't making a lot of money" will benefit, while "a 60-something couple with higher medical expenses" will be hurt.

<u>USA Today</u> (10/12, Korte, 8.62M) reports that the order also seeks to increase "the use of health reimbursement arrangements, or HSAs, to expand the availability of short-term health plans." In addition, it proposes "a study of barriers to competition in the health insurance market." The article quotes Trump as saying, "This is something that millions and millions of Americans will be signing up for. They'll be very happy, and they'll get great health care." But House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) warned that the order is "a sabotage of the Affordable Care Act."

The Wall Street Journal (10/12, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that the executive order was only the first step in a campaign by the White House to dismantle the ACA administratively. White House officials said more steps will be forthcoming in the near future, although no decisions have been made. Some possible moves could include rules to halt mergers of hospitals, insurers, and physicians' offices, which can result in higher prices. The Journal says Acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan will lead efforts to analyze such mergers, with assistance from the FTC as well as the departments of Treasury and Labor.

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/12, Levey, 4.49M) reports that although "loosening consumer protections in the ACA might make insurance cheaper for those in good health, that would happen at the expense of millions of sicker Americans, who'll have to pay more, warn patient advocates, state regulators and others across the healthcare sector." One healthcare advocate warned, "Today's executive order jeopardizes the ability of millions of cancer patients, survivors and those at risk for the disease from being able to access or afford meaningful health insurance."

Similarly, the AP (10/12, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports some experts warned that "the White House plan could undermine coverage on the ACA's insurance marketplaces, particularly for people with health problems." The article says this "would happen if healthy people flock to lower-cost plans with limited benefits." Meanwhile, others argued that the proposals in the executive order seem "to be modest and would have limited impact."

Bloomberg News (10/12, Rausch, 4.52M) reports that the order would allow "federal agencies to take several actions through federal rule-making." For instance, these rules could allow small employers "to band together from across the country to create 'association health plans' and buy insurance together outside of Obamacare." One supporter of the order said it contains policies which will help "to provide relief to people harmed by Obamacare."

Reuters (10/12, Abutaleb, Mason) reports that this order was Trump's "most concrete step to undo Obamacare since he took office in January after promising voters he would dismantle the 2010 law." He said during a signing ceremony at the White House, "The cost of the Obamacare has been so outrageous, it is absolutely destroying everything in its wake." But Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) "accused Trump of 'using a wrecking ball to single-handedly rip apart our healthcare system." He is quoted as saying, "Having failed to repeal the law in Congress, the president is sabotaging the system."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/12, Boyer, 541K) reports White House officials indicated that "the order doesn't make changes immediately, and that they hope the administration can implement many of the proposals within six months." The article adds that Trump said, "The time has come to give Americans the freedom to purchase health insurance across state lines, which will create a truly competitive national marketplace that will bring costs way down and provide far better care."

The Hill (10/12, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that the order was "a victory for Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who has long pushed for expanding association health plans, saying they give people choices for lower-cost coverage." Paul was present at the signing "on Thursday, calling the move the 'biggest free market reform of health care in a generation." Another article in The Hill (10/12, Manchester, 1.68M) reports that Paul



"defended" the executive order, saying, "We're creating something that is freedom. He's not creating a new government program." The <u>Daily Caller</u> (10/12, Donachie, 521K) reports Paul also said the order has "the potential to be amazing," while W. James Antle III writes in the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/13, 465K) that Paul's support of the order makes him and Trump "the odd couple." According to Antle, the more Paul condones the order, the more he adopts the title Trump gave him during healthcare reform attempts: "friend."

Also covering the story are the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/12, story 3, 0:30, Mason, 11.17M), <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (10/12, story 5, 0:40, Muir, 14.63M), <u>TIME</u> (10/12, Rhodan, 5.85M), the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/12, 4.49M), <u>Politico</u> (10/12, 3.6M), <u>ABC News</u> (10/12, McGraw, Parks, 2.83M), the <u>New York Daily News</u> (10/12, Silverstein, 3.61M), <u>NPR</u> (10/12, Horsley, 2.4M), the <u>Christian Science Monitor</u> (10/12, Trumbull, 273K), the <u>Connecticut Post</u> (10/12, Soule, 199K), the <u>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u> (10/12, Dupree, 1.16M), the <u>Dayton (OH) Daily News</u> (10/12, Wehrman, 141K), the <u>Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal</u> (10/12, Novelly, 391K), the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/12, Leonard, 465K), <u>Roll Call</u> (10/12, Bennett, 134K), <u>Modern Healthcare</u> (10/12, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K), another <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/12, Leonard, 465K) article, and <u>Kaiser Health News</u> (10/12, Appleby).

Trump Campaign Officials Laud Executive Order. The Washington Examiner (10/12, Morrongiello, 465K) reports that on Thursday, Trump campaign officials lauded the President "for taking the lead on dismantling parts of Obamacare, 'despite the failure of Congress' to repeal the landmark healthcare law twice this summer." Michael Glassner, the executive chairman of Trump's re-election campaign, stated that "Americans are reminded today that they can rely on President Trump to do everything possible to fix this debacle by implementing free-market solutions through executive actions."

Dems Accuse Trump Of Attempting To "Sabotage" ACA With Executive Order. The Washington Examiner (10/12, King, 465K) reports Democratic Congress members "said Thursday that President Trump's President Trump's executive order to relax insurance rules is the latest evidence of Republican 'sabotage' against Obamacare." Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) "said the order is part of the sabotage effort since Congress failed 'legislatively to replace Obamacare." Meanwhile, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) "said in a series of tweets that the order could create more 'junk' insurance plans since it could lead to bypassing pre-existing condition protections on the individual market."

AMA, Other Groups Express Concern About Executive Order. The Hill (10/12, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that about 20 healthcare groups are warning that President Trump's executive order "could weaken patient protections and destabilize the individual market." They stated, "This order has the potential to price millions of people with pre-existing conditions and serious illnesses out of the individual insurance market and put millions more at risk through the sale of insurance plans that won't cover all the services patients want to stay healthy or the critical care they need when they get sick." The article says the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association also voiced concerns about the order. AMA President David O. Barbe, MD "said his group has concerns the order would 'weaken important patient protections and lead to instability in the individual health insurance market." The Washington Examiner (10/12, King, 465K) also covers the story.

The <u>Austin (TX) American Statesman</u> (10/12, Sechler, Subscription Publication, 431K) reports groups such as the Texas Association of Business and the Insure Central Texas program at Foundation Communities are also wary of the order. The Texas Association of Business cited concerns about "access and affordability."

American Hospital Association Warns Executive Order Could Further Destabilize Individual Market. The Hill (10/12, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that on Thursday, the American Hospital Association warned that President Trump's executive order "could destabilize insurance markets and make coverage unaffordable for people with preexisting conditions." Tom Nickels, executive vice president of the group, said, "Today's Executive Order will allow health insurance plans that cover fewer benefits and offer fewer consumer protections. ... No one can predict future health care needs with complete certainty and such plans could put patients at risk when care is needed most."



Progressive PAC Questions Order's Legality. Newsweek (10/12, Katz, 991K) reports the order may not be legal, according to American Bridge, a progressive political action committee. The group "slammed the administration for trying to pull a fast one with people's health," with a spokesman questioning the order's legality by saying changes to the ACA must "be done by statute, not regulation."

More Commentary. Amber Phillips writes in the Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) "The Fix" that since he was elected, "President Trump's efforts regarding Obamacare have been almost all geared at undermining it." In the wake of Congress' inability to repeal the healthcare law, "he's acting as much as he can on his own. And depending on how it's implemented, the executive order Trump signed Thursday could be his most significant step yet to sabotage the law."

Aaron Blake writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/12, 10.38M) "The Fix" that President Trump's executive order "will scale back Obamacare's regulations and make it easier to buy plans that don't meet the Affordable Care Act's requirements." Blake says based on this move and other similar actions, "it's clear the Trump administration isn't going to lift a finger to salvage the law and make it workable for the foreseeable future. It seems anxious, in fact, to usher in its demise."

Eric Levitz writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (10/12, 519K) that while the details of President Trump's executive order on healthcare "are complex and dull, the upshot is simple – and the stakes for millions of vulnerable Americans are enormous." Levitz adds that the order essentially creates "loopholes that allow healthy people to stop subsidizing the sick." He also warns that it "provides a blueprint for how the administration could effectively end Obamacare (at least temporarily) without passing a single piece of health-care legislation."

Jack Crowe writes in the <u>Daily Caller</u> (10/12, 521K) that the executive order strikes "a unilateral blow against Obamacare after the Republican-controlled Congress repeatedly failed to follow through on his campaign promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act." He adds that critics are warning that the order "will hurt the elderly and sick as younger, healthier Americans leave Obamacare risk pools to purchase cheaper, less comprehensive coverage."

Kimberly Leonard writes in the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/13, 465K) an analysis detailing the "winners and losers" of Trump's executive order, positing that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) and President Trump are "victorious" while Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) are the "losers" because they have yet to reach a bipartisan agreement on stabilizing ACA exchanges. According to Leonard, whether the Graham-Cassidy bill and Democrats are winners or losers has yet to be determined, with the order potentially making "Graham-Cassidy more difficult to pass" and leaving Democrats unable to assess "to what extent voters will agree with" the order.

TRUMP TO END COST-SHARING REDUCTION SUBSIDIES. The Washington Post (10/13, A1, Goldstein, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports on its front page that the White House confirmed Thursday that it will stop making federal payments for "cost-sharing reductions," payments to health insurers "that help millions of lower-income Americans afford coverage." A statement from the Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that the "cutoff would be immediate." The Post reports that "insurers have said that stopping the cost-sharing payments would be the single greatest step the Trump administration could take to damage the marketplaces – and the law." Acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan and CMS Administrator Seema Verma released a joint statement which said, "It has been clear for many years that Obamacare is bad policy. It is also bad law. ... The Obama Administration unfortunately went ahead and made CSR payments to insurance companies after requesting – but never ultimately receiving – an appropriation from Congress as required by law."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/12, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that President Trump told at least one lawmaker that the subsidy payments would continue if a bipartisan agreement is reached on healthcare legislation.

The AP (10/13, Thomas, Lucey) reports Democratic congressional leaders Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a joint statement in response, saying, "It is a spiteful act of vast,



pointless sabotage leveled at working families and the middle class in every corner of America. ... Make no mistake about it, Trump will try to blame the Affordable Care Act, but this will fall on his back and he will pay the price for it." The AP adds that leading Republicans have called for "continuing the payments to insurers, at least temporarily, so constituents maintain access to health insurance," and Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) have been working on legislation to do that, "though they differ over how long these subsidies should be guaranteed."

Reuters (10/12, Holland, Mason, Abutaleb) reports that the decision was based on legal advice from the Justice Department, according to a White House statement which said, "the Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that there is no appropriation for cost-sharing reduction payments to insurance companies under Obamacare. ... In light of this analysis, the Government cannot lawfully make the cost-sharing reduction payments."

The Hill (10/12, Savransky, Weixel, 1.68M) reports Congress could still appropriate the payments. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan said, "Today's decision ... preserves a monumental affirmation of Congress's authority and the separation of powers. ... Obamacare has proven itself to be a fatally flawed law, and the House will continue to work with Trump administration to provide the American people a better system."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/12, Leonard, 465K) reports that the Congressional Budget Office estimated in August that halting the subsidies could lead to an increase in the uninsured of 2 million in 2018 and an increase in insurance premiums of 20 percent on top of expected increases.

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/12, Dinan, 541K) reports White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said of the \$7 billion in payments, "The bailout of insurance companies through these unlawful payments is yet another example of how the previous administration abused taxpayer dollars and skirted the law to prop up a broken system."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/12, Young, 5.74M) reports that attorneys general from 17 states and the District of Columbia are parties to a federal lawsuit on the payments and "New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced Thursday that he and those other attorneys general are prepared to sue Trump over the cost-sharing reduction payments."

Also reporting are Politico (10/12, Dawsey, Demko, 3.6M), NPR (10/12, Kurtzleben, 2.4M), Bloomberg News (10/12, Tracer, 4.52M), Vox (10/12, Scott, 1.54M), the New York Post (10/12, Tacopino, 4.31M), the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (10/12, Chait, 519K), and the Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (10/12, Wildeman, 269K).

The Secretary in the News:

TRUMP ACCUSED OF SLOWLY ROLLING BACK ACA. USA Today (10/12, Przybyla, O'Donnell, 8.62M) reports that as far as healthcare is concerned, President Trump contends "he's doing 'the right thing' for Americans," and that he will work with Democrats to craft a bipartisan plan to overhaul the US healthcare system after Republicans' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed. Yet, Trump is "using the power of the presidential pen to unravel the ACA piece by piece – which could affect health care coverage for more than 11 million Americans." The article says, "It's the government's responsibility to enforce the law, just as it is for it to enforce laws that pay for the military, education or law enforcement. If the administration doesn't follow through on the parts of the law that make it work, the program could fail." However, "Trump has consistently denied his administration is playing any role, instead blaming...former President Barack Obama for all of the health care law's problems." The piece quotes former HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius as saying, "It's hard to look at that series of decisions, which is entirely in the hands of the administration, and say they want anything other than this to be a miserable failure."

ERIC HARGAN NAMED ACTING HHS SECRETARY. In continuing coverage, <u>Healthcare IT News</u> (10/12, Siwicki, 5K) reports President Trump has named Eric Hargan acting Health and Human Services



Secretary, a week after being confirmed in the Senate as deputy secretary. "Hargan was a member of Trump's HHS transition team. Further, he previously served at HHS from 2003 to 2007, including as acting deputy secretary," before leaving government to practice law.

HOUSE WATCHDOG REPORT SAYS REP. COLLINS' ADVOCACY FOR BIOTECH FIRM MAY HAVE BROKEN ETHICS RULES. The Washington Post (10/12, Debonis, 10.38M) reports the House Office of Congressional Ethics "has found 'substantial reason to believe' that Rep. Chris Collins violated federal law and congressional rules by meeting with government researchers in his official capacity to benefit a biotech company he is invested in" and share private information to attract investment. Collins was "an early backer" of moribund Australia-based multiple sclerosis therapy developer Innate Immunotherapeutics "and recruited investors that included family, his congressional staff and House colleagues," including former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. "Price did not cooperate with the OCE probe, according to the report," which detailed a "Nov. 18, 2013 visit to the National Institutes of Health, where Collins and a House staffer visited with a key researcher into multiple sclerosis" and asked for help in designing Innate Immuno's drug trial.

The New York Times (10/12, Thomas, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Collins is Innate Immunotherapeutics' largest shareholder, "reporting for the year 2016 that he held between \$25 million and \$50 million in the company." According to ethics lawyer Stanley Brand, "It's not a foregone conclusion that the ethics committee is going to take this [case] up." The Times notes Price divested from Innate after he became HHS Secretary.

On its website, <u>CNN</u> (10/12, Walsh, 33.59M) reports that the OCE report says that the NIH meeting raised questions because Collins "took official actions or requested official actions that would assist a single entity in which he had a significant financial interest." The report includes emails from Collins to shareholders discussing "details of patients enrolled in trials of an Innate drug" and plans for a "private placement offering" of stock.

The New York Daily News (10/12, Lovett, 3.61M) reports the OCE report "recommends the House ethics committee subpoena the 10 individuals and entities that refused to cooperate with the board's investigation," including former HHS Secretary Tom Price, Collins' former legislative assistant, Jeff Freeland, and Innate CEO Simon Wilkinson.

The Hill (10/12, Weixel, 1.68M) notes that "Innate said it sold nearly \$1 million in stock in discounted shares to Price while he was still a congressman, according to a Wall Street Journal report," and adds that Price "came under fire during his confirmation hearings for stock trades made while he was involved in healthcare legislation" as a member of Congress.

In a second story, <u>The Hill</u> (10/12, Marcos, 1.68M) reports, "Collins dismissed the authority of OCE, noting it does not have subpoena power, and maintained that he had done nothing wrong."

The Wall Street Journal (10/12, Tau, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), AP (10/12, Freking), and the Washington Examiner (10/12, Correll, 465K) also report.

OMB REVIEWING HHS PROPOSAL TO DELAY COMMON RULE UPDATES FOR ONE YEAR. Fierce Healthcare (10/12, Sweeney, 146K) reports that the Office of Management and Budget is considering "a proposal from the Department of Health and Human Services that would delay implementation" of changes to the Common Rule for one year. The American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), which had asked former HHS Secretary Tom Price and the OMB in June to finalize the modifications and "had grown impatient over the lack of clarity," expressed support the delay, the article says.

HHS in the News:

OHIO'S DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION ACCUSES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OF NOT HELPING WITH ACA ENROLLMENT. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (10/12, Wehrman, 456K) reports that Ohio's



Democratic congressional delegation is alleging "the Trump administration is not doing enough to help citizens enroll in health-care plans under Obamacare." On Thursday, the lawmakers – Reps. Joyce Beatty (D-Jefferson Township), Tim Ryan (D-Niles), Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), and Marcia Fudge (D-Cleveland) – wrote to CMS Administrator Seema Verma "asking her to explain cuts in services and outreach programs aimed at enrolling citizens in health-care plans." The lawmakers also argued that "the Trump administration's attempts to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act...'have thrown millions of families and individuals into uncertainty weeks before the open enrollment period begins."

NEARLY FOUR IN 10 US ADULTS ARE OBESE, CDC STATISTICS SHOW. The Los Angeles Times (10/12, Healy, 4.49M) reports that data released Friday by the CDC show that in 2015 and 2016, nearly "4 in 10 American adults had a body mass index that put them in obese territory." The piece suggests that "the report underscores a continuing pattern of racial and ethnic disparities when it comes to weight," pointing out that "obesity rates among African Americans and Latinos have been consistently higher than those seen in whites, and the new survey shows no change in that pattern."

The AP (10/12, Stobbe) reports that data show children aged two to five had the biggest increase in obesity rates. Additionally, data show that "by age, the fattest adults are in their 40s and 50s."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/13, Tanzi, 4.52M) reports that while data from the National Center for Health Statistics show "a majority of Hispanic and non-Hispanic black women are obese, the National Center for Health Statistics study found," while "just one in ten Asian men are obese."

NBC News (10/13, Gussone, 3.46M) reports on its website. TIME (10/12, Sifferlin, 5.85M) provides additional coverage.

EXPERTS SAY ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION "DOES NOT LEAD TO RISKIER SEXUAL BEHAVIOR." TIME (10/12, Abrams, 5.85M) reports the Department of Health and Human Services' new rules on contraception "listed side effects and health risks it said can be associated with certain types of contraception." In part, the rules said, "Imposing a coverage Mandate on objecting entities whose plans cover many enrollee families who may share objections to contraception could, among some populations, affect risky sexual behavior in a negative way." Experts contend, however, that research shows insurance coverage for birth control "does not lead to riskier sexual behavior."

SOME EXPERTS WARNING FLU EPIDEMICS IN OTHER COUNTRIES COULD CAUSE SHORTAGE OF KEY MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN US. Newsweek (10/12, Matthews, 991K) reports some experts are warning that during the upcoming flu season, the US could face shortages of key medical supplies that are manufactured overseas. The experts say that if there is a pandemic in China or India, then manufacturers of medical supplies may be forced to reduce production. The article also mentions that Sonja Olsen, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said earlier this week that the H7N9 flu virus could mutate into a form that would be transmissible among humans, which could make the upcoming flu season very dangerous.

NIH, NCI ANNOUNCE NEW \$215 MILLION PARTNERSHIP WITH 11 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES TO ADVANCE IMMUNOTHERAPY. The Wall Street Journal (10/12, Burton, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute announced on Thursday that they would collaborate with 11 pharmaceutical companies to advance the development of immunotherapy. The article also reports that earlier this month, Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg, the chief of surgery at the National Cancer Institute, spoke about the successful treatment of a woman with metastatic breast cancer using immunotherapy.

Reuters (10/12, Steenhuysen) reports that the new Partnership for Accelerating Cancer Therapies (PACT) is a continuation of the Cancer Moonshot. Eric Hargan, the acting Secretary of Health and Human Services, said, "Under President Trump, we are going to continue making significant investments in cancer cures. Advancing great American medicine and science is a top, top priority for this administration."



The Hill (10/12, Roubein, 1.68M) reports the National Institutes of Health will contribute up to \$160 million over five years to PACT, while the companies will contribute up to \$55 million.

STAT (10/12, Facher, 43K) reports that the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health "will oversee the initiative," and the participating companies are AbbVie, Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene Corporation, Genentech, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, and Pfizer. NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said in a statement, "We have seen dramatic responses from immunotherapy, often eradicating cancer completely for some cancer patients. We need to bring that kind of success – and hope – for more people and more types of cancers, and we need to do it quickly. A systematic approach like PACT will help us to achieve success faster." Also covering the story are Forbes (10/12, Kincaid, 5.11M) the Washington Times (10/12, Kelly, 541K), the Houston Chronicle (10/12, Ackerman, 1.97M), and GenomeWeb (10/12).

SENATE DEMS CALL ON NIH TO RENEW GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH FUNDING. Erin Schumaker writes for the <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/12, 5.74M) that more than two dozen Senate Democrats "called on the National Institutes of Health to renew recently lapsed funding for gun violence research." In a Wednesday letter to NIH director, Dr. Francis Collins, the senators wrote, "it is critical that NIH dedicate a portion of its resources to the public health consequences of gun violence," but note the chilling effect of the 1996 Dickey Amendment prohibiting the CDC from funding research "to advocate or promote gun control."

NIH DIRECTOR COLLINS SPEAKS AT ALMA MATER. The <u>Cavalier Daily (VA)</u> (10/12, Annapareddy) reports National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins on Tuesday spoke at his alma mater, the University of Virginia. In his speech before about 400 attendees, Collins "discussed a genomics-based analysis of human relatedness," then "encouraged the audience to ensure that resources and institutional support systems are accessible to all and discussed diversity in research participants." Collins said, "We have a historic opportunity to try to understand how we are all the same but how we are all different," adding that "It behooves us in our headlong rush to learn about things to expand our knowledge, to take some time to focus on this issue."

OVARIAN RESERVE FERTILITY TESTS MAY BE INEFFECTIVE IN PREDICTING CHANCE OF CONCEPTION. Newsweek (10/12, Delzo, 991K) reports that according to new research published in the Journal of American Medical Association, ovarian reserve fertility tests may be ineffective. "Women are born with a set number of eggs that gradually declines through the reproductive years," Esther Eisenberg, Program Director of the National Institute of Health's Reproductive Medicine and Infertility Program, explained in a statement. "This study suggests that testing for biomarkers of ovarian reserve does not predict the chances for conception in older women still of reproductive age."

NEW HHS STRATEGIC PLAN DEFINES LIFE AS BEGINNING AT CONCEPTION. The Hill (10/12, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that the Department of Health and Human Services defines life as "beginning at conception," according to a draft of its new strategic plan. The draft reads, "HHS accomplishes its mission through programs and initiatives that cover a wide spectrum of activities, serving and protecting Americans at every stage of life, beginning at conception." The article calls the language "a major shift from the Obama administration."

HIMSS REQUESTS ASSISTANCE FROM HHS IN IMPROVING SECURE HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE. In continuing coverage, EHR Intelligence (10/12, Monica) reports that HIMSS has asked HHS to help improve the nationwide exchange of secure health data in three specific ways. In the article's words, HIMSS' requests are as follows: one, that HHS promote "integration between the interoperability approaches and trusted exchange frameworks to improve data access, care quality, and cost effectiveness"; two, that HHS spearhead "efforts to educate stakeholders on implementing existing and emerging standards, data formats, and use cases"; and, three, that "HHS improve data usability to support patient care and research."

COLUMN: GOTTLIEB WOULD BENEFIT FDA MORE THAN HHS. Megan McArdle writes in her Bloomberg View (10/12, 4.52M) column that Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, who "represents a much-needed countervailing force against the agency's tendency to prize caution over



speed," has made it a priority to speed approval times as a counterweight to the agency's "pathologically risk averse" culture. McArdle says his hesitance to consider replacing former HHS Secretary Tom Price bodes well for the FDA, saying, "While Gottlieb could undoubtedly do some good as secretary of health and human services, he'll do even more good by staying right where he is."

FDA APPROVES RECORD NUMBER OF GENERIC DRUGS. In continuing coverage, <u>STAT</u> (10/12, 43K) reports that in fiscal year 2017, the Food and Drug Administration "approved a record number of applications — 763 in all," beating out fiscal year 2016's previous high of 651. STAT explains that the news comes "as FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb works to hasten the approval process as a way to address complaints over high drug prices."

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY TARGETS OLDER ADULTS IN MARKETING TREATMENT FOR PBA. CNN (10/12, Ellis, Hicken, Hernandez, 33.59M) reports in a greater-than 5,000-word piece on its website that Avanir Pharmaceuticals, the maker of Nuedexta, a treatment for older adult patients with the "rare condition" pseudobulbar affect or PBA, "aggressively targets frail and elderly nursing home residents for whom the drug may be unnecessary or even unsafe." According to CNN, Avanir "acknowledges in prescribing information that the drug has not been extensively studied in elderly patients" and that it could be "unsafe." The treatment has FDA approval for PBA patients, although some medical researchers "have found doctors inappropriately diagnosing nursing home residents." According to FDA investigator Larry Stevens, it is illegal for paid speakers to promote drugs for purposes other than FDA-approved use, although CNN quotes one speaker as suggesting Nuedexta could be used for non-approved purposes. CMS circulated a letter in January alerting insurers about fraud allegations concerning physicians who received kickbacks for prescribing Nuedexta.

OP-ED WARNS AGAINST ETHICAL CONCERNS STYMIEING GENE EDITING ADVANCEMENTS.Physician, molecular biologist, and founding director of the FDA's Office of Biotechnology Henry Miller of Stanford University's Hoover Institution writes in the Wall Street Journal (10/12, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) that while advances in gene editing have led to concerns about genetic improvement of athletes and others, the greater concern is that such ethical concerns will inhibit the technology, causing patients to suffer and die from preventable ailments. Miller argues current restrictions in place at the FDA and NIH that in effect ban gene editing research in human embryos that could lead to births should be removed as soon as possible, calling the regulations outdated. He also mentions gene editing testing conducted at the NIH which has shown promising results.

FDA MICROBIOLOGISTS FIND "DEADLY" BACTERIA IN NECC MEDICATIONS. The Tennessean (10/12, Roche, 499K) reports FDA microbiologists testifying in the trial of former New England Compounding Center supervising pharmacist Glenn Chin "said that a variety of bacteria were found in multiple drugs shipped by the" NECC to health centers across the country. The center is the source of tainted medications that led to a 2012 meningitis outbreak that killed 76 people, for which Chin is on trial concerning his role in knowingly distributing the medications. Haydee Romero of a New York FDA laboratory said 48 of 78 vials she tested that were sent to a health center were contaminated, while Henry Lau of the FDA's San Francisco office said his tests also confirmed the presence of "[d]eadly" bacteria on medicines shipped by the facility. One of Chin's lawyers questioned FDA employee Jonathan Yenovkian who said some tests could not confirm the NECC as the source of some bacteria.

OPINION: FDA'S DELAY OF NEW FOOD LABEL IS BAD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH. Joan Salge Blake, clinical associate professor in the nutrition program at Boston University, writes in STAT (10/13, 43K) that she is "confused" and "mad" in response to "the Food and Drug Administration's plan to delay the implementation of the much-needed new food label, the iconic rectangle of nutrition information that adorns food packages." She explains, "More than 110 million Americans, half of all adults, have one or more preventable diseases that are related to unhealthy diets and physical inactivity" and the risks of the leading causes of death can be "reduced by eating a healthier diet and shrinking our expanding waistlines." The new labels would focus on calories, give "real serving sizes," and highlight added sugars. Blake recommends that readers submit a comment on the FDA's website urging it to implement the new nutrition label.



Health Reform:

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO "WEAKEN" ACA HIGHLIGHTED. In an analysis, the Washington Post (10/12, Soffen, 10.38M) discusses how President Trump and his Administration are working to undermine the ACA. The article says Trump may not "strictly enforce" the ACA's mandate to purchase insurance; HHS has not assisted states with planning for this year's open enrollment period; the Administration has "slashed" the ACA advertising budget, cut funding for ACA "navigator" groups, and "cut the open enrollment period in half"; and the Administration is permitting people to join "association health plans," among other actions.

The New York Times (10/12, Park, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the Trump Administration is still taking "action that could weaken the Affordable Care Act and curtail enrollment in coverage under the law." The piece goes on to list 11 ways in which the Administration has attempted to undermine the ACA, including President Trump signing an executive order that would allow the sale of plans with fewer consumer protections.

<u>Politico</u> (10/12, Millman, 3.6M) reports that the executive order "marks Trump's most aggressive effort yet to unilaterally dismantle Obamacare after repeated failed attempts by Republicans in Congress." The article goes on to discuss eight ways in which the President has sought to "undermine" ACA marketplaces.

EXECUTIVE ORDER COULD BENEFIT SOME INSURERS, HURT OTHERS. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/12, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that the executive order which President Trump signed on Thursday will probably have two opposite effects on the insurance industry: It may increase challenges for some companies, but provide opportunities for others. The article adds that it remains to be seen over time precisely how the order will impact the market.

DEMOCRATS RESPOND TO TRUMP'S MOVE TO END CSR PAYMENTS. The Hill (10/12, Byrnes, 1.68M) reports that "Democratic leaders blasted the administration on Thursday night" for the President's decision to end cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a joint statement, saying, "Sadly, instead of working to lower health costs for Americans, it seems President Trump will singlehandedly hike Americans' health premiums." They added, "It is a spiteful act of vast, pointless sabotage leveled at working families and the middle class in every corner of America. Make no mistake about it, Trump will try to blame the Affordable Care Act, but this will fall on his back and he will pay the price for it."

The Washington Examiner (10/12, King, 465K) reports that Democrats said that Trump is walking away from "good faith bipartisan negotiations" in the Senate to keep making the CSR payments for two years in exchange for "more flexibility for states to waive Obamacare regulations."

STATES THREATEN TO SUE ADMINISTRATION OVER HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIES. The Hill (10/12, Savransky, 1.68M) reports state attorneys general from California and New York indicated that they are prepared to sue the Administration over its decision Thursday to cut off ACA subsidies. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra (D) tweeted: "I am prepared to sue the #Trump Administration to protect #health subsidies, just as when we successfully intervened in #HousevPrice!" New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (D) said, "Again and again, President Trump has threatened to cut off these subsidies to undermine our healthcare system and force Congress to the negotiating table. ... That's unacceptable."

The New York Post (10/12, Tacopino, 4.31M) reports Schneiderman also said, "I will not allow President Trump to once again use New York families as political pawns in his dangerous, partisan campaign to eviscerate the Affordable Care Act at any cost." The Post added that Scheiderman referenced a "coalition" of 17 states willing to defend the payments in court.

PAUL RYAN BACKS TRUMP'S DECISION TO END ACA SUBSIDIES. The Washington Examiner (10/13, King, 465K) reports House Speaker Paul Ryan applauded Thursday night President Trump's



decision to end payments to insurers to reimburse them for lowering out-of-pocket costs for low-income customers under the ACA. Ryan said, "Today's decision by the Trump administration to end the appeal of that ruling preserves a monumental affirmation of Congress's authority and the separation of powers," and added, "Obamacare has proven itself to be a fatally flawed law, and the House will continue to work with Trump administration to provide the American people a better system."

GOP LAWMAKERS VOW TO CONTINUE ACA REPEAL EFFORTS. The Washington Examiner (10/12, King, 465K) reports that on Thursday, Republicans in Congress "swore they weren't done trying to repeal Obamacare after President Trump signed an executive order borne out of frustration over Congress' inability to eliminate the law." For instance, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said, "I will continue to push for our legislation which will return healthcare power and decision-making to patients and states." The article adds that Graham and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) sponsored Senate Republicans' latest attempt to repeal the ACA. That bill failed due to lack of support.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAYS ACA REPEAL EFFORTS MAY RESUME IN THE SPRING. The Washington Examiner (10/12, 465K) reports that on Thursday, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said "there probably won't be a new Obamacare repeal bill until the spring." Commenting on the executive order which President Trump signed on Thursday, he added, "This was a way to take care of as many Americans as he could legally." The article says Kelly explained that Trump had not previously signed such an order because he expected congressional Republicans to include similar provisions in an ACA repeal, but the latest attempt to pass repeal legislation failed at the end of last month.

DOCUMENT SUGGESTS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MAY CONTINUE TO ENFORCE ACA'S COVERAGE MANDATE. The Hill (10/12, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports, "The Trump administration is hinting that it will continue to enforce the ObamaCare mandate requiring Americans to have coverage." The article says an Administration document related to President Trump's executive order "states that 'only Congress can change the law' when it comes to the mandate."

ACA INSURANCE RATES TO INCREASE 36 PERCENT IN WISCONSIN. The Wisconsin State Journal (10/12, Wahlberg, 382K) reports JP Wieske, Wisconsin Deputy Commissioner of Insurance, said Thursday that premiums on the Affordable Care Act exchange will go up an average of 36 percent next year. Wieske added, "The increases we're seeing reflect the increased amount of risk that a smaller number of carriers are going to have to take on." Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) said, "Obamacare is collapsing, and these huge premium increases show the law failed on its promise to deliver affordable healthcare."

The <u>Milwaukee Journal Sentinel</u> (10/12, Boulton, 628K) reports Wieske explained that the 20,000 to 30,000 people in the individual market who do not receive subsidies "are going to be the ones who are hit the hardest." He continued, "Nobody wants to compete for this market, despite the subsidies that are available to consumers. … That is sort of troubling."

MASSACHUSETTS' HEALTH CONNECTOR RATES TO INCREASE 8.7 PERCENT. The Boston Globe (10/12, McCluskey, 969K) reports rates on Massachusetts' health insurance exchange, Health Connector, will increase 8.7 percent in 2018. The Globe said Connector officials "chose not to subject consumers to 'unwarranted' increases right now" based on uncertainty as to whether the federal government would stop paying government subsidies. The article adds, "The Trump administration still could choose to stop paying the subsidies, causing an unusual scenario in which Connector insurance rates could rise in the middle of the year. That could result in confusion and inconvenience for tens of thousands of people." Officials said last week that rates could increase 24 percent if the subsidy payments stopped.

EXPERTS SAY TRUMP'S ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS COULD VIOLATE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LAW. Reuters (10/12, Pierson, Raymond) reports President Trump's executive order which would "make it easier for small businesses to band together and buy stripped-down health insurance plans" may violate federal law, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), according to several healthcare and employment law experts. Dania Palanker, an assistant research professor at



Georgetown University's Center on Health Insurance Reforms, explained, "Any attempt to allow the sale of association plans to small groups across state lines will be open to legal scrutiny as to whether it is violating ERISA and undermining state authority." Reuters adds that state attorneys general could contend that the federal government "overreached."

AFTER TRUMP'S DECISION ON SUBSIDIES, FOCUS TURNS TO BIPARTISAN NEGOTIATIONS. The Washington Examiner (10/12, King, 465K) reports that President Trump's "decision to abruptly end insurer subsidies for Obamacare comes as the Senate is expected to resume talks next week on a bipartisan deal that makes the payments." Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) have been working on a "narrow bipartisan deal that would fund the payments in exchange for greater flexibility for states to waive certain Obamacare regulations." In their joint statement, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said of Trump's decision to end the subsidy payments, "If these reports are true, the President is walking away from the good faith, bipartisan Alexander-Murray negotiations and risking the health care of millions of Americans."

COLORADO INSURANCE COMMISSIONER SAYS TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER "WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS." The Denver Post (10/12, Ingold, 817K) reports Colorado Insurance Commissioner Marguerite Salazar responded Thursday to Trump's executive order on "association health plans" and short-term insurance, saying, "The limited benefits, the focus on the healthy at the expense of those with pre-existing conditions, and lack of regulatory oversight will cause problems for the health insurance market as a whole." The Post says that there are more than 100 association health plans in the state, according to state officials, and Salazar added, "Premiums may end up being lower for people buying these plans, but for many, paying for services not covered by the plans will be much more costly in the long run."

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER COULD COST DELAWARE CUSTOMERS. The Wilmington (DE) News Journal (10/12, Newman, 424K) reports President Trump's executive order aimed at lowering health insurance premiums by letting consumers buy insurance across states and to expand short-term plans "will cost some Delaware consumers more and limit coverage, officials here said." Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) tweeted Thursday that "This is just the Trump Administration's latest move to sabotage the Affordable Care Act." Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) said that the plan will "erode consumer protections under the ACA, which could jeopardize the health care that many Delawareans and Americans everywhere depend on."

ANTHEM AGREES TO REDUCE PREMIUM INCREASE AFTER CALIFORNIA REGULATOR CHALLENGE. The Los Angeles Times (10/12, Terhune, 4.49M) reports Anthem Blue Cross will lower its two planned premium increases for next year after the California Department of Managed Health Care challenged its projected medical costs, which included a predicted 30 percent increase in pharmacy costs. Anthem will still increase rates 37.3 percent for next year. Anthem's statement explained that they revisit "our assumptions and rates as more data becomes available" and that "emerging data allowed us to provide some rate relief to California individuals and small businesses versus what was originally filed."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

The New York Times (10/12, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorializes that President Trump "took matters into his own hands" Thursday after failed attempts at repealing "one of his predecessor's biggest accomplishments," the Affordable Care Act. The Times says Trump's executive order "could significantly damage the health insurance market and harm millions of people" by creating an "alternative health insurance system that does not include the safeguards of the A.C.A. and could sabotage that 2010 law." The Times addresses the specific provisions and says that the "combined effect of these changes will be to destabilize the A.C.A.'s individual market, which is used by nine million people to buy health insurance." The Times concludes: "Congress must step in. Lawmakers need to finish work on muchtalked about bipartisan legislation to strengthen the A.C.A. America's long-term health depends on it."

The Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) editorializes that President Trump "signed an executive order directing his administration to ramp up its sabotage campaign against the Affordable Care Act" on Thursday. The Post continues, "Mr. Trump is now trying to undercut Obamacare's insurance pool by



executive fiat, sidestepping Congress." The editorial concludes, "Mr. Trump constantly criticizes Obamacare's rising premiums. If his executive order is fully implemented, those premiums will rise a lot more – especially for some of the Americans who need help the most."

Catherine Rampell writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/12, 10.38M) that President Trump on Thursday decided to "take away protections for preexisting conditions, increase deductibles, spike premiums, eliminate basic coverage requirements and, more generally, destabilize the individual health-insurance market." Rampell adds that those "are the consequences of the policy bombs he wants to set off in two relatively obscure corners of the insurance market: association health plans and short-term health plans." The piece examines the proposals and concludes that the "only good news is that Trump's executive order doesn't have force of law" and the final rules "may turn out to be weaker than Trump has implied, especially because some elements of the order appear legally dubious."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/12, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes that President Trump's executive order Thursday directing agencies to be more flexible on association health plans, short-term insurance plans, and health-reimbursement arrangements is neither the sabotage claimed by Democrats nor the salvation sought by Republicans, as the practical effects will not be known for months.

James Freeman writes in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/12, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) critical of Democrats' professed concerns for the insurance market that will be impacted by President Trump's executive order, and suggests that the order could be a game changer for people seeking more insurance options than are available to them under the ACA.

The <u>Chicago Tribune</u> (10/12, 1.98M) editorializes that President Trump's "sweeping executive order" Thursday "could be another nail in Obamacare's coffin." The Tribune adds, "We hope Trump's order will ramp up pressure on Congress to find a more sweeping solution to fix Obamacare." The piece concludes, "Like or loathe Trump's order, it reflects more urgency than Congress has demonstrated."

Bloomberg View (10/12, 4.52M) editorializes that President Trump's purpose behind his executive order "is the same as ever: to undermine the Affordable Care Act and, more broadly, the very idea of health insurance." The piece says that Trump "wants to dismantle this cooperative arrangement and just let healthy people buy cheaper policies." The editorial concludes, "Trump's latest executive order, like his previous moves, seems motivated more by frustration at Congress's inability to repeal Obamacare than by any concern for the smooth functioning of the individual health-insurance market. Regardless, it puts the health of millions of Americans at risk."

Jake Novak writes for <u>CNBC</u> (10/12, 3.48M) that President Trump's executive order allows "cheaper and less extensive health insurance plans to be sold to the public once again," which were popular with "healthier, younger, and lower income people" before the ACA. However, Novak points out that the "obvious losers in this new scenario are the Americans with those serious and costly pre-existing conditions." To address that problem, Novak suggests that the "Trump team should make a deal" with insurance companies "involving some ratio of pre-existing patients covered for every Medicare Advantage customer" or make Medicaid available to people with pre-existing conditions, even if they have "decent incomes," but "can't get health care because they still can't afford it."

Science journalist Arlene Weintraub writes in Forbes (10/12, Weintraub, 5.11M) that four healthcare experts recently debated whether the US healthcare system is "terminally broken" at the Mayo Clinic Center for Innovation's annual conference and the "winning contenders" said, "Yes, the healthcare system is struggling, they argued, but the problems are fixable." Ezekiel Emanuel, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, described healthcare delivery models that "he says are working well," such as CareMore's Medicare Advantage plan in Southern California whose hospital admission rates are 45 percent lower than traditional Medicare. While the debaters agreed that "scaling up these ideas would not be easy," the piece adds, "most of the people who tuned in for the discussion were also unwilling to leave the healthcare system for dead."

Betsy McCaughey, Senior Fellow at London Center, writes in the New York Post (10/12, 4.31M) that the



"Affordable Care Act requires everyone to buy the one-size-fits-all package" and President Trump's executive order Thursday takes "the opposite approach, allowing consumers choice." McCaughey adds that "Democrats are ranting that Trump's regulatory changes are sabotaging the Affordable Care Act," which she says is "a wild overstatement." She encourages Trump to "keep going," and to "stop enforcing the tax penalty on those who don't buy ObamaCare-compliant plans" and to "cancel the sweetheart deal his predecessor weaseled for members of Congress and their staff members." The piece concludes, "Once members of Congress are feeling the same pain as everyone else, they'll be more focused on repealing and replacing the dysfunctional health law."

Matt Birong, owner of a Vermont café, writes in the <u>Burlington (VT) Free Press</u> (10/12, 117K) that small businesses throughout his state "breathed a sigh of relief" when the Graham-Cassidy legislation "went up in flames," and Birong commends Vermont Gov. Phil Scott (R) for "crossing party lines" to stand "in opposition to Republicans in Congress as they attempted to roll back health care for millions of Americans." He concludes, "The challenges Vermont faces in health care, economic growth and affordability won't be as easily solved as the sinking of Graham-Cassidy and will require even more non-partisan work and cooperation to develop a solution that works for both Democrats, Republicans and, more importantly, all Vermonters."

The <u>Des Moines (IA) Register</u> (10/12, 324K) editorializes that some Republicans are claiming that if the Affordable Care Act exchanges fail in Iowa or elsewhere, Democrats will be to blame since they passed the law that created them. The editorial argues, however, that Republicans would be to blame because they are refusing to fix the exchanges by creating a public option.

The <u>San Antonio Express-News</u> (10/12, 1.18M) writes in an editorial that as more people go without insurance, the number of ER visits could rise because those people visit the ER to address routine health issues. The editorial suggests that as "the fifth season for enrollment in the Affordable Care Act launches Nov. 1...the lack of federal support for getting people enrolled could result in a reversal in the steady drop in the number of uninsured across the country." The Express-News concludes that "sabotaging efforts to maintain current ACA enrollment levels with no viable alternate plan in place will redirect uninsured patients to seek out more costly solutions for their medical problems," and that such "costly emergency room visits...could have been better handled in a clinic visit."

Opioid News:

EXPERTS SUGGEST BANNING SOME PAINKILLERS, RAMPING UP LAW ENFORCEMENT TO CURB OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/12, Bernstein, 10.38M) reports in "To Your Health" that the FDA should contemplate prohibiting the sale of "ultra-high-dosage" pain medicines and police must boost their efforts to halt the importation of fentanyl and heroin into the US, for the country to make headway against the opioid crisis, two experts said Thursday. The experts, "Andrew Kolodny, co-director of opioid policy research at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, and Thomas R. Frieden, former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," expressed their views in "an opinion article released Thursday in JAMA."

In an op-ed for The Hill (10/12, 1.68M), Dr. Frieden repeated his and Kolodny's list of "10 specific areas that could greatly accelerate progress in preventing addiction, overdose, and death."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FINALIZING RULE TO MANDATE OPIOID TESTING FOR SOME TRANSPORTATION WORKERS. The Hill (10/12, Zanona, 1.68M) reports that a proposed rule "to require opioid testing for certain transportation workers" is being finalized, according to information in a letter written by Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao this week. The article adds that the Department of Health and Human Services in January "updated its mandatory guidelines...for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs and" permitted the Department of Transportation "to add four prescription opioids to its drug-test panel: hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone and oxycodone."

OPIOID EPIDEMIC PREYS ON VULNERABLE BRONX RESIDENTS. The New York Times (10/12, A1,



Delreal, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page that the Bronx has endured a complicated "trajectory of opioid addiction," with "overdose deaths…declining until a new surge began at the turn of the decade." The article says the rise in fatalities has been driven by "social forces that have left some Bronx residents especially vulnerable." The article adds that some residents "blame racial politics for insufficient resources" to fight the epidemic.

SENATORS WARREN, MURKOWSKI CRITICIZE TRUMP FOR FAILING TO MAKE EMERGENCY DECLARATION ON OPIOIDS. The Hill (10/12, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) wrote a letter to President Trump expressing concern that he has "yet to take the necessary steps to declare a national emergency on opioids" despite indicating 63 days ago that the process was underway. The letter also criticized Trump for failing to make "any proposals to significantly increase funding to combat the epidemic."

The New York Daily News (10/12, Silverstein, 3.61M) and the Alaska Dispatch News (10/12, Martinson, 379K) also report.

ILLINOIS' NEW OPIOID TASK FORCE COMMENCES LISTENING TOUR. The AP (10/12) reports that a new Opioid Prevention and Intervention Task Force is "touring Illinois" on an information-gathering mission regarding the opioid crisis. The group is speaking with "health care providers, people who are suffering from opioid use disorder and others," with the ultimate goal of determining ways "to reduce the number of opioid deaths in Illinois."

ABOUT 26 MILLION PEOPLE DIE IN PAIN ANNUALLY AMID PALLIATIVE CARE GAP, REPORT SAYS. The AP (10/13, Neergaard) reports on a study published Friday in The Lancet finding that "nearly 26 million people around the world die each year with serious suffering in part because of a huge gap in pain relief." The report says one key "to improv[ing] palliative care in low-income countries while avoiding mistakes that led to the U.S. addiction crisis," is "using off-patent morphine that costs pennies a dose." The \$1.5 million study was funded by the University of Miami and Harvard University and with grants including from the U.S. National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, and Pfizer.

WAYNE, OAKLAND COUNTIES SUE DRUGMAKERS OVER OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The <u>Detroit Free Press</u> (10/12, Dudar, 1.07M) reports Wayne and Oakland county executives announced a joint lawsuit against several drug manufacturers and distributors, alleging the "deceptive marketing and sale of opioids," including OxyContin and Fentanyl. Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said opioid-related deaths in the county numbered 817 in 2016, up from 506 in 2015.

EDITORIAL: VIRGINIA COUNTIES WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE OPIOID ABUSE. In an editorial, the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (10/12, 394K) writes that "the Richmond region can't ignore the painful facts of a drug addiction crisis so severe that the state has called it a public health emergency," praising collaboration among city and county officials in tackling the crisis. The piece spotlights the newspaper's own reporting on Virginia Department of Health overdose death data and says that "experience has shown that the lock-em-up approach has no effect."

Healthcare Fraud:

ARIZONA PHYSICIAN ACCUSED OF FORGING ADDERALL PRESCRIPTIONS. The AP (10/13) reports that an Arizona doctor of osteopathic medicine, Kevin Michael McKeown, has been indicted by a state grand jury for fraud for allegations of forging prescriptions to obtain Adderall. The Arizona Attorney General's Office says that McKeown faces "24 felony charges including fraudulent schemes, forgery, taking the identity of another and obtaining dangerous drugs by fraud."

Healthcare News:

RUBIO REQUESTS SENATE INVESTIGATION OF FLORIDA NURSING HOME AFTER 14 RESIDENTS' DEATHS. Politico (10/12, Caputo, 3.6M) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) is calling for



congressional investigations into Florida nursing home The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills following the deaths of 14 residents who were left without air conditioning at the facility in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Rubio wrote in a letter calling for the Senate Finance Committee to investigate the "terrible tragedy" that took place at the nursing home and cited problems with the home found by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration such as high medication error rates.

MARYLAND AMONG WORST-PERFORMING STATES IN INVESTIGATING NURSING HOME COMPLAINTS BY DEADLINE, OIG REPORT FINDS. A report issued by the HHS Office of the Inspector General found the state of Maryland ranks among the lowest states in terms of investigating allegations of harm at nursing homes, the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> (10/11, Fritze, 706K) says. The report found Maryland "failed to investigate nearly 650 allegations" of harm or abuse within the mandatory 10-day period – "meaning the state missed the federal deadline 74 percent of the time." The state "ranked 7th worst in the nation for timely investigations of high-level complaints, according to a Baltimore Sun analysis of the report's data." The Sun says CMS offers "an increasing amount of information about" nursing homes online, although "it is not possible to review individual complaints and track how long it took for to trigger an inspection in each instance."

RETIREES SPENDING ONE-THIRD OF SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME ON MEDICAL COSTS, STUDY FINDS. Michelle Andrews writes for <u>Kaiser Health News</u> (10/13) that according to a recent study published this month by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, "retirees spent on average more than a third of their Social Security benefits on out-of-pocket medical costs in 2014." The typical retiree spent \$4,274 per year on medical costs excluding long-term care.

Human Services News:

STAFF, PATIENTS AT WASHINGTON FACILITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS FACE "NOXIOUS GAS EXPOSURE." The Washington Post (10/12, Horton, 10.38M) reports staff and patients at the VA Community Resource and Referral Center, a Washington, DC, "medical facility for homeless military veterans," have "endured noxious gas exposure for nearly two years as top hospital administrators, though aware of the problem, have failed to remedy it." Estimates show that at least eight clinical workers "have tested positive for elevated levels of carbon monoxide, a March internal email said," and "[a]s many as 30 employees, desperate to avoid further exposure, have sought reassignment or permission to work remotely." Employees have "reported a range of symptoms...consistent with sewer gas exposure, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES HHS' HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS IN CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES. Modern Healthcare (10/12, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday inquiring as to "how it provided aid to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after hurricanes Irma and Maria," following concerns that "the territories received different treatment than Texas, Florida and other states." According to Modern Healthcare, "The committee requested that HHS send any documents or communications related to threat assessments, mitigation measures, emergency preparedness or other contingency plans in the case of a hurricane striking Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands from before Sept. 5," as well as any correspondence between September 5 and October 4 concerning hurricane preparation and recovery efforts in the territories.

Nutrition & Obesity:

CHICAGO-AREA SODA TAX REPEAL MAY SHIFT FIGHT IN BEVERAGE INDUSTRY'S FAVOR. Bloomberg News (10/12, Kaplan, 4.52M) reports Cook County, Illinois' repeal of its tax on sweetened beverages, along with the defeat of soda taxes in "Santa Fe, New Mexico, in May and in St. Helens,



Oregon, earlier this month" are "a victory for the beverage industry," which has spent millions of dollars fighting such measures. Ali Dibadj, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., said in research note, "This win in Cook County seems to shift the tide somewhat in its favor." Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, one of two commissioners favoring keeping the tax, "wrote in the Chicago Tribune he supported it because of the financing gap and the measure's potential to help fight increases in heart disease, diabetes and obesity."

Medicare:

CMS TERMINATES FLORIDA NURSING HOME'S MEDICARE PROGRAM. The AP (10/12) reports the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently issued a statement saying the Florida nursing home The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills has had its Medicare program terminated as of Friday "due to their failure to meet Medicare's basic health and safety requirements." The announcement follows Florida's move to ban the center from Medicaid following the deaths of 14 residents after the facility could not provide them with air conditioning when Hurricane Irma knocked out its power.

Medicaid & CHIP:

MICHIGAN GOV. SNYDER DEFENDS LEGIONNAIRES' OUTBREAK TESTIMONY, STATE MEDICAID COSTS. The Detroit Free Press (10/12, Spangler, 1.07M) reports Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder spokesman Air Adler "says the governor is standing by sworn testimony he gave Congress about when he learned of Legionnaires' disease outbreaks in the Flint area," after a top aide testified last week that Snyder learned about the outbreaks weeks earlier. The Free Press also reports that in a letter to U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, Snyder defended the Healthy Michigan program saying he "respectfully disagrees that the approach used in your letter to calculate the growth in expenditures is an accurate portrayal of this successful program."

OPINION: MAINE VOTERS SHOULD OPPOSE MEDICAID EXPANSION. Maine state Rep. Heather Sirocki writes in an op-ed for the <u>Bangor (ME) Daily News</u> (10/12, 162K) that Maine voters should vote no on Question 2 to expand Medicaid this November because "Medicaid expansion will give taxpayer-funded welfare to working-age adults who are not disabled" and the state's last attempt resulted in a budget crisis. Sirocki calls the ballot measure "another attempt by well-funded special interest groups to force voters into making laws at the ballot box, a job primarily reserved for lawmakers."

NEW HAMPSHIRE GOV. SUNUNU DEFENDS MEDICAID COSTS. The Concord (NH) Monitor (10/13, DeWitt, 38K) reports New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu "pushed back" on Thursday against "assertions by U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin that New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion program has experienced skyrocketing costs." Sununu pointed to analysis by the actuarial consulting firm Milliman suggesting the claim was inflated. The Milliman review identified external factors, including that the state's Medicaid program didn't get started until halfway through 2014 and delayed billing practices for claims made in the first year

Health & Medical News:

FDA PANEL RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF EXPERIMENTAL GENE THERAPY TREATMENT FOR LEBER'S CONGENITAL AMAUROSIS. The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/12, story 10, 1:50, Mason, 11.17M) reported, "An FDA advisory panel today recommended approval of an experimental treatment for" Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA), "a rare form of blindness."

In a segment on the <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (10/12, story 9,. 1:50, Holt, 16.61M), NBC News medical correspondent Dr. John Torres explained that physicians "inject directly into the eye a normal gene to fix the defective gene." Torres said scientists "believe one day, this approach could treat other conditions caused by genetic defects" such as some "cancers, heart disease and Parkinson's."

The Washington Post (10/12, McGinley, 10.38M) reports the committee recommended the therapy,



Luxturna, be made the first gene therapy to be approved in the US for an inherited disorder. Spark Therapeutics produces the therapy, which "does not give patients perfect vision but does produce substantial improvements, researchers said." The treatment "represents what is thought of as true gene therapy, in which a functional gene does the job of a defective one."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/12, Chen, Tracer, 4.52M) reports the treatment's approval "would be a major scientific milestone – and also open the door for record-breaking drug prices and novel ways to pay for them." The article says Luxturna may face pricing impediments to comply with Medicaid, noting CMS said it "is committed to further exploring the development of innovative payment arrangements for new and potentially life-saving treatments."

Reuters (10/12, Clarke) reports the FDA panel "voted unanimously in favor of the treatment."

Also providing coverage are the <u>Financial Times</u> (10/12, Crow, Subscription Publication, 1.34M), <u>CBS News</u> (10/12, 4.42M), <u>Newsweek</u> (10/12, Sheridan, 991K), <u>NPR</u> (10/12, Stein, 2.4M) in its "Shots" section, the <u>Philadelphia Inquirer</u> (10/12, Loyd, 1.71M), and the <u>Philadelphia Business Journal</u> (10/12, George, Subscription Publication, 894K).

RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY GENETIC VARIATIONS AFFECTING SKIN COLOR THAT ARE SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD. The New York Times (10/12, Zimmer, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports "researchers pinpointed eight genetic variants in four narrow regions of the human genome that strongly influence pigmentation – some making skin darker, and others making it lighter." The researchers found that "these genes are shared across the globe, it turns out; one of them, for example, lightens skin in both Europeans and hunter-gatherers in Botswana." The findings were published in Science.

HealthDay (10/12, Preidt, 11K) reports that previous research on the genetics of skin pigmentation have mainly focused on people of European descent, but in the new study "researchers assessed skin pigmentation and genetic data from nearly 1,600 ethnically and genetically diverse people in Africa."

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF FEDERALLY-FUNDED GUN RESEARCH DISCUSSED. CNN (10/12, Scutti, 33.59M) discusses what possibly can be learned from federally-funded gun research in light of the fact that, "Since the mid-1990s, the federal government has blocked or restricted funding for scientific research into gun violence." Among a number of aspects in the call for more gun research, such as potential policy solutions and the goal of gun research, the piece states that "in recent years, many scientific researchers and professional organizations, such as the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association, clamored for more study of gun violence."

LIQUID BIOPSY OF RETINOBLASTOMA MAY BE POSSIBLE, STUDY SUGGESTS. <u>STAT</u> (10/12, McFarling, 43K) reports practitioners might be able to conduct a liquid biopsy of a retinoblastoma tumor by using the "fluid that's removed from the eye during chemotherapy and typically discarded." Researchers, who found that the DNA in the removed fluid "matched the DNA found in" the tumors, published their findings in JAMA Ophthalmology.

SOME CANCER RESEARCHERS USING AI TO DEVELOP NEW TREATMENTS. Newsweek (10/12, Dilawar, 991K) reports that some cancer researchers are using artificial intelligence to help develop new treatments. The article highlights Insilico Medicine, a company based in Baltimore, that is using AI for biotech research.

ANALYSIS: CANCER INCREASINGLY BEING VIEWED BY CAUSE RATHER THAN LOCATION. Melissa Healy writes for the Los Angeles Times (10/12, Healy, 4.49M) that historically "oncologists often specialize in treating cancer in one organ, to the exclusion of all others," but "that centuries-old view of cancer is changing." Organizing cancers by their location "has made sense for generations, but the results of molecular analysis are now calling this view into question," David Haussler, Joshua M. Stuart and colleagues wrote in October 2013 in Nature. "Cancers of disparate organs have many shared features, whereas, conversely, cancers from the same organ are often quite distinct." Healy notes that the U.S. Food & Drug Administration "took a major step toward breaking down those walls. It approved the



immunotherapeutic drug Keytruda to treat metastatic solid tumors in any organ."

COLUMN: PATIENTS STRUGGLE WITH FIRING THEIR DOCTORS. Bob Brody writes in the New York Times (10/12, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) about his experience with his primary care physician for over 20 years and how he came to question "his judgment in medical matters" as he aged. The column discusses how electronic medical records has impacted patient-physician interactions, as well as the trend of physicians being "so risk-averse" that they prescribe medications by "default" or refer them to specialists, even when it may not be necessary. The piece quotes an American Medical Association spokesman that said, "Burnout and caregiver fatigue among physicians is a real and growing problem that impacts patients," and may be a reason to have discussions with or change physicians.

LATIMES INTERVIEWS CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY ABOUT CANCER RESEARCH. The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/12, Healy, 4.49M) interviews Dr. Otis W. Brawley, the chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, about cancer research. The article reports that Brawley is excited about new developments, but also concerned about how slowly new discoveries are adopted.

MORE PATIENTS, PHYSICIANS TREATING CANCER LIKE A CHRONIC ILLNESS. The Los Angeles Times (10/12, Ravn, 4.49M) reports that cancer is becoming more like a chronic illness for some patients, because of new treatments. The article reports that when physicians can distinguish between less aggressive and more aggressive types of cancer, sometimes "treating cancer like a chronic illness can often reduce both the financial cost and the physical risks of intensive treatment."

VETERANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO REVEAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS TO A VIRTUAL BOT, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (10/12, Cohen) reports that "soldiers and veterans who served in war zones" were "up to three times more likely to reveal" post-traumatic stress symptoms "to a computergenerated interviewer named Ellie" than on a formal post-deployment survey, according to the results of a new <u>study</u>. The study's authors concluded that a non-human tool could prove beneficial in addressing PTSD in veterans.

BIPARTISAN BILL TO CREATE A NATIONAL DIABETES COMMISSION HEADS TO TRUMP'S DESK. The AP (10/12) reports that a bipartisan bill to "establish a national commission of health care experts on diabetes care and prevention" has passed both the House and Senate is awaiting President Donald Trump's action.

FLORIDA DETECTS ITS FIRST ZIKA INFECTION CAUSED BY A MOSQUITO IN 2017. The Miami Herald (10/12, Chang, 701K) reports that Florida's health department on Thursday announced the first case of mosquito-transmitted Zika in the state this year. Health officials said an individual was infected with the virus during a trip to Cuba with a partner. Upon the couple's return to Florida, a mosquito "spread the virus to the infected person's partner."

The AP (10/12) also reports.

ONE-THIRD OF TEENS BELIEVE SMOKING MARIJUANA AND DRIVING IS LEGAL IN SOME STATES, SURVEY SUGGESTS. USA Today (10/12, May, 8.62M) reports that 33 percent of 2,800 surveyed teenagers indicated they believed driving while smoking marijuana is legal in states that permit recreational use. The <u>study</u> also revealed that nearly 90 percent "of teens think driving under the influence of alcohol is dangerous," whereas 68 percent believe that "driving under the influence of marijuana is dangerous." The article mentions that "marijuana can stay in a person's system for days to weeks, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse."

FDA DECLINES TO APPROVE OPIOID PAIN MEDICATION. Reuters (10/12, Mishra) reports that the Food and Drug Administration declined to approve the opioid pain medication Dsuvia (sufentanil sublingual tablet) and instead requested additional safety data and "certain changes in the directions of use to ensure proper administration of the drug." The drug's maker, AcelRx, said the agency's requests were "manageable" and that it planned to resubmit the application.



THIRD POLE DEVICE CAN HELP NEWBORNS BREATHE WITHOUT BULKY EQUIPMENT.

Bloomberg News (10/12, Belfiore, 4.52M) reports on device produced by Third Pole which "generates nitric oxide (NO) from the air to improve oxygenation and treat pulmonary hypertension, a common ailment among newborns, without bulky tanks or regulators." The Third Pole "combines air with pulsed electrical charges to produce NO, dilating the blood vessels in the patient's lungs to send more oxygen to the rest of the body." The National Institutes of Health has awarded the company \$3.5 million in grants. The founders of the company are the father-son team of Warren Zapol, an anesthesiologist and Harvard professor, and David Zapol, who holds advanced degrees in "biology, public health, and immunology from MIT, Columbia, and Stanford."

LAWSUIT CLAIMS STEROID ALTERNATIVE IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ADVERTISED. The Wall Street Journal (10/12, Gershman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports a supplement maker has filed a lawsuit against online vendors that market Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs) to bodybuilders as a safe alternative to steroids. The lawsuit claims that SARMs are more harmful to the liver than advertised by the vendors. The Food and Drug Administration declined to comment on the lawsuit, however, the agency considers SARMs regulated drugs, but few enforcement actions have been taken against the vendors.

REQUIRING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADS TO LIST ALL POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS LEADS CONSUMERS TO PAY LESS ATTENTION TO MOST SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, STUDY FINDS. In continuing coverage, STAT (10/12, Silverman, 43K) reports that a study published in Nature Human Behaviour finds that TV ads for prescription drugs that list "all of the potential risks, big and small," actually leads consumers to "pay less attention to the most serious side effects and, consequently, focus on the benefits of the drug." The researchers "ran six experiments, involving more than 3,000 U.S. participants, to test whether providing information on both major and minor side effects reduces the overall perception of the severity of the side effects." They concluded that "the FDA— in regulating direct-to-consumer advertisements to list side effects that range from the serious, such as stroke and thoughts of suicide, to those less serious, such as dry mouth and headache — have diluted consumers' judgments of the overall severity of the drug's side effects."

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION REPORT DEFENDS HOSPITALS' FEDERAL TAX

EXEMPTIONS. Forbes (10/12, Japsen, 5.11M) reports the American Hospital Association commissioned an analysis from Ernst and Young highlighting the ways in which hospitals earn their federal tax exempt status by providing a benefit to communities that outweighs the lost tax revenue "by a factor of 11 to 1." While the tax exemption results in roughly \$6 billion in lost revenue in 2013, "the most recent year ... information was available for the AHA's Ernst & Young report," the report found that hospitals produced a \$67 billion benefit for their communities that year. According to AHA CEO Rick Pollack, "Hospitals of all kinds – urban and rural, large and small – are demonstrating the value they provide and solidifying their commitment to making their communities healthier through strengthened community partnerships, health and wellness programs, and outreach activities designed to combat identified community needs."

FDA EXPANDS CLEARANCE FOR NUVASIVE'S PRECICE LIMB LENGTHENING SYSTEM. The San Diego Business Journal (10/12, 43K) reports the FDA expanded 510 (k) regulatory clearance for NuVasive's Precice system, "which treats patients with limb length discrepancy and deformities." The expanded approval allows the system to be used "for open and closed fracture fixation, pseudoarthrosis, malunions, nonunions and bone transport," in addition to the system's previous approval for femur and tibia lengthening.

DELAWARE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE FIRST CASE OF HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION SINCE 2015. The AP (10/12) reports Delaware public health officials announced the first known case of West Nile virus infecting a human since 2015; the 70-year-old woman who contracted the virus "was briefly hospitalized but is now recovering at home." According to the AP, "Officials say the virus is still showing up in sentinel chickens monitored for mosquito-borne diseases, and that mosquitoes remain very active, especially given the unseasonably warm weather."



EVEN SLIGHTLY EARLY BIRTH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH WORSE CARDIORESPIRATORY FITNESS, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (10/12, Lehman) reports that research suggests "babies born a little early, but still within the range considered 'full term,' may have worse cardiorespiratory fitness than peers born after a full 39 weeks of gestation." Investigators found that, "compared to kids born at full-term (39-40 weeks) and late-term (41-42 weeks), those born early-term (37-38 weeks) were about 57 percent more likely to have poor cardiorespiratory fitness during adolescence and young adulthood." The findings were published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

PUBLIC CPR TRAINING MAY HELP MORE VICTIMS OF CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVE, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (10/12, Rapaport) reports that research suggests "training more community members, patients and families to recognize and respond to a cardiac arrest before medical help arrives may help more victims survive." The <u>findings</u> were published in JAMA Cardiology.

TIPS PROVIDED ON HOW TO LIMIT KIDS' SMARTPHONE USE. TIME (10/12, Heid, 5.85M) reports on increasing "concern among parents, educators and mental health experts that excessive smartphone use may be contributing to the recent surge in adolescent depression and suicide." TIME provides "five tips" on limiting smartphone use in kids, such as keeping them out of children's bedrooms, setting up "online firewalls and data cutoffs," creating "a device contract," modeling "healthy device behaviors," and getting kids "old-school flip phones."

OP-ED: DAVID BROOKS BEMOANS LACK OF NEW INSTITUTIONS TO SOLVE CURRENT ISSUES IN THE US. David Brooks writes in the New York Times (10/13, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that Americans used to create "civic institutions" which were "founded to address the nation's problems," such as the "Forest Service ... the Food and Drug Administration, the municipal reform movement, the suffrage movement, the Federal Reserve System, the Boy Scouts, the 4-H clubs, the settlement house movement, the compulsory schooling movement, and on and on." Brooks says today, there are "a lot of history-making new companies being created, but you don't see too many big civic organizations." He argues that the main culprit for this dearth is "political polarization," but says churches and the affluent are also to blame.

USING CRISPR GENE EDITING, RESEARCHERS STOP SPERM PRODUCTION IN MICE. Newsweek (10/12, Frankel, 991K) reports, "A new study.. <u>published</u> in Nature Communications breaks new ground in approaching a male contraceptive," at least in mice. Researchers "found that by shutting off a pathway using CRISPR gene editing, they could stop sperm production in" the animals.

The <u>Pittsburgh Tribune-Review</u> (10/12, Schmitt, 236K) reports scientists say the study's "findings are a significant step in finding drug treatments that could similarly block the genetic expression of this gene, called PNLDC1, in humans."

ANALYSIS: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE HAS A PERSONAL COST. The AP (10/13, Hester) spotlights the human costs of Alzheimer's disease, which affects 30,000 over the age of 65 in Utah. The piece profiles a couple who have been married for 61 years and how they have adapted their lives since Kay Trowbridge, 81, was diagnosed in 2012.

National News:

IN RARE PUBLIC STATEMENT, KELLY DENIES TENSION WITH TRUMP. Coverage of Chief of Staff Kelly's appearance at the White House daily news briefing highlights the rarity of public comments from Kelly, and analyses agree that Kelly sought to defuse reports of tension between him and President Trump. Many of the reports are brief, and most focus on those two points.

ABC World News Tonight (10/12, story 4, 1:40, Muir, 14.63M) reported that in "a very rare moment, amid reports of growing tension between the two, the Chief of Staff suddenly walking into the White House briefing room, and he took questions about his relationship with President Trump." ABC's Jonathan Karl said that Kelly "firmly denied reports he's so fed up with his job he wants to quit." Kelly: "Although I read it



all the time, pretty consistently, I'm not quitting today. I don't believe – and I just talked to the President – I don't think I'm being fired today. And I'm not so frustrated in this job that I'm thinking of leaving." Karl: "It's the first time Kelly has taken questions from the White House press corps since becoming the ultimate behind-the-scenes power player."

On the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/12, story 4, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M), Margaret Brennan reported that Kelly "came to the briefing room today to assert there is no chaos in the Trump White House despite weeks of controversies. ... Today, Kelly channeled his boss." Kelly: "One of his frustrations is you, all of you. Not all of you, but many of you." Brennan: "Kelly said he is focused on instilling order at the White House, and not on controlling the President." Kelly: "I was not brought to this job to control anything but the flow of information to our president, so that he can make the best decisions." Brennan: "But it was clear that Kelly does not always agree with those decisions. ... Kelly's marching orders were to put a positive spin on working at the Trump White House. Despite his denials, we know Kelly is fatigued by the President's Twitter habit and his temper."

Kristen Welker reported on NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) that a "candid and comfortable" Kelly offered "new insight into his relationship with the President." Kelly: "I was not sent into or brought in to control him, and you should not measure my effectiveness as a chief of staff by what you think I should be doing." Welker: "Kelly also revealing one of his biggest concerns, the North Korean nuclear crisis." Kelly: "Let's hope that diplomacy works." Welker: "And weighing in on whether the President's public feuds are derailing his legislative agenda." Kelly: "The President has a right to defend himself."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/12, Estepa, 8.62M) reports in a brief item that Kelly "sought to quash rumors of his dissatisfaction with his White House role at Thursday's press briefing," but "quipped that being charged with the running of the White House isn't the best job he's had," saying that "that title goes to being an enlisted Marine."

The Washington Post (10/12, Rucker, 10.38M) reports that Kelly "sought to dismiss reports that he has been frustrated working for President Trump in what he characterized as 'the hardest job I've ever had." Politico (10/12, Karni, 3.6M) reports that Kelly "delivered a relaxed and upbeat performance that helped tamp down reports of tension." The New York Times (10/12, Shear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) writes, "Such is the tightrope that a chief of staff in a Trump presidency must walk: simultaneously demonstrating a sense of calm and order inside the White House while being careful not to appear critical of the president's lack of those very qualities."

The <u>Daily Caller</u> (10/12, Ross, 521K) reports that in his "candid remarks," Kelly "acknowledged that White House chief of staff is the most taxing job he's ever had." <u>The Hill</u> (10/12, Fabian, 1.68M) reports that Kelly's steps "to impose order and discipline in what had been reportedly a chaotic and disorganized West Wing...have irked some senior officials and outside Trump allies who criticize Kelly for not allowing Trump to operate in the same freewheeling manner he did when running his businesses and presidential campaign."

Michael Crowley of Politico said on <u>Fox News Special Report</u> (10/12, 1.93M), "I think there is a narrative, which the White House obviously disputes, that it's chaos and everyone is on the brink of quitting and they are just barely containing Trump in his wildest impulses. Kelly comes out and he is a guy with natural, unforced authority."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/12, Wayne, Epstein, 4.52M), <u>Reuters</u> (10/12, Mason, Holland), the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/12, Bennett, 4.49M), and the <u>Washington Times</u> (10/12, Boyer, 541K) also report Kelly's remarks.

TRUMP: FEDERAL RELIEF WORKERS WON'T BE IN PUERTO RICO FOREVER. In a series of tweets Thursday, President Trump suggested that federal relief workers cannot remain in Puerto Rico indefinitely. Trump tweeted $(\underline{1}, \underline{2}, \underline{3})$, "Puerto Rico survived the Hurricanes, now a financial crisis looms largely of their own making.' says Sharyl Attkisson...A total lack of accountability say the Governor.



Electric and all infrastructure was disaster before hurricanes. Congress to decide how much to spend. We cannot keep FEMA, the Military & the First Responders, who have been amazing (under the most difficult circumstances) in P.R. forever!" Trump's comments were met with condemnation from Democratic lawmakers and almost universally negative media coverage, which casts the tweets as a threat and an effort to blame Puerto Rico for its current situation.

Lester Holt said on NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 3, 2:25, 16.61M) that Trump "seemed to be threatening to pull emergency responders from the American commonwealth." Gabe Gutierrez added that in Puerto Rico, "some feel the President's words add insult to injury." Trump, he added, "seeming to break the promise he made last Friday." Trump: "We will not rest until that job is done." On ABC World News Tonight (10/12, story 6, 2:30, Muir, 14.63M), Cecilia Vega described Trump's tweets as "a dire warning that federal aid to Puerto Rico may disappear."

A front-page story in the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/12, A1, Rucker, Hernández, Roig-Franzia, 10.38M) says Trump "sought to hold the territory responsible for its own plight because of chronic mismanagement – prompting an immediate backlash from Puerto Ricans and mainland lawmakers in both parties," while the <u>New York Times</u> (10/12, A1, Baker, Ferré-sadurní, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) describes Trump as "angry" about criticism of the "slow and not always empathetic response to the storms that ravaged the United States territory," and says he "sought to refocus blame to where he believes it belongs – the leadership of the island itself, which in his view mismanaged its affairs long before the winds blew apart its infrastructure." The Times adds, however, that Trump's "threat may mean less than it appears – federal government officials quickly said that they were not pulling out of Puerto Rico anytime soon." Nonetheless, it "provoked another wave of criticism from the island and its supporters who expressed astonishment that the president would assail the very people he was supposed to be assisting."

Similarly, the Los Angeles Times (10/12, King, Bierman, 4.49M) says Trump "drew a sharp and dismayed backlash...from Democratic lawmakers, activists and many Puerto Ricans." House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said the tweets were "heartbreaking" and demonstrated a lack of understanding of FEMA's role. Senate Minority Leader Schumer tweeted, "There is still devastation, Americans are still dying. FEMA needs to stay until the job is done." Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez issued a statement saying Trump's words and actions have "called into question his ability to lead." The Washington Post (10/12, Hernández, Roig-Franzia, 10.38M) reports that while Trump's comments "were not surprising to many Puerto Ricans," they "stung" and "they helped underscore the feeling that the president doesn't view them as deserving the same level of assistance as citizens on the mainland United States." The Washington Times (10/12, Persons, 541K) also reports briefly on Trump's tweets.

David Begnaud said on the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/12, story 2, 2:15, Mason, 11.17M) that as Trump is "threatening to limit federal help...residents struggle to find clean water amid fears that floodwater is spreading disease." <u>Politico</u> (10/12, Nelson, 3.6M) cites a website created by the Puerto Rican government which "showed that nearly 90 percent of the island was still without power as of Wednesday and 47 percent does not have telephone service." Politico adds that despite the island's "ongoing challenges," Trump "has claimed credit for a successful recovery effort in Puerto Rico." The <u>New York Times</u> (10/12, Dickerson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that "the challenge of finding enough water to drink and cook with remains enormous across the island." Grocery store managers, distributors, and supply companies say demand has "skyrocketed" because "safe, drinkable tap water is still largely unavailable, and deliveries of water from the outside have not kept up with demand." The EPA on Wednesday "cited reports of residents trying to obtain drinking water from wells at hazardous Superfund sites."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/12, Bacon, 8.62M) White House Chief of Staff Kelly addressed Trump's comments during a press conference Thursday, saying that an emergency worker's goal is to "work yourself out of a job." The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/12, Kasperowicz, 465K) quotes Kelly as saying, "Our country will stand with those American citizens in Puerto Rico until the job is done, but the tweet about FEMA and DOD... is exactly accurate. ... They're not going to be there forever, and the whole point is to start to work yourself out of a job and transition to the rebuilding process."



White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (10/12, 841K), "I think there's a growing push to say, help fix the problems that existed before the hurricane, and that's not fair to the American taxpayer. We should help to repair things that were done by natural disaster, but we have to be careful that there is not an extra effort to say, there was a lot of infrastructure problems on the island existed before the hurricane, and we want the American taxpayer now to come out and bail out those problems."

Eugene Robinson writes in the Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) that if Trump cuts off federal aid to Puerto Rico, it would be "government by spite and should be considered an impeachable offense." To "abandon 3.4 million Americans in their hour of need" would be "an unprecedented and shameful act" and "grounds for removing an unfit man from the high office he dishonors." A New York Times (10/12, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorial questions why Trump chose to "pick on the storm-ravaged American citizens of Puerto Rico, of all defenseless people, and reveal such a cold-hearted lack of empathy for their plight." Trump's tweets, the Times adds, "set a new low," and "called into question whether Mr. Trump grasps and accepts the responsibilities of his office." The Times concludes that Trump's "compulsive need to shame people can only boomerang in this case and shame Mr. Trump in any pretense that he is up to the job."

The Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) argues in an editorial that if Americans in "Connecticut or Montana or Arkansas," faced the conditions residents of Puerto Rico are facing, "the president of the United States certainly wouldn't be threatening to abandon federal relief efforts." The Post calls on Congress to "give Puerto Rico the resources it needs" and "exercise its oversight over the administration to demand answers on why, three weeks after disaster struck, so many Americans are still living in misery with so little hope for the future."

San Juan Mayor Accuses Trump Of Genocide. The Washington Times (10/12, Dinan, 541K) reports that San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz on Thursday accused Trump of "genocide" for his handling of recovery efforts in Puerto Rico. Cruz made the "startling accusation in a text message sent to Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez," in which she wrote, "I ask the United Nations, UNICEF and the world to stand with the people of Puerto Rico and stop the genocide that will result from the lack of appropriate action of a President that just does not get it because he has been incapable of looking in our eyes and seeing the pride that burns fiercely in our hearts and souls."

FBI Looking Into Claims Puerto Rican Officials Are Withholding FEMA Supplies. The Daily Caller (10/12, Picket, 521K) reports that the FBI is looking into "multiple allegations" from Puerto Rico residents "who say local officials in the territory have withheld needed FEMA supplies." FBI Special Agent Carlos Osorio said, "People call us and tell us some misappropriation of some goods and supplies by supposedly politicians, not necessarily mayors, but people that work for the mayors in certain towns. ... So what we're doing is looking into these allegations. That I can tell you is happening. Again, I cannot say that we have any ongoing investigation. We're just corroborating these allegations." The FBI is currently "aware of six municipalities among Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities where such activity is allegedly happening."

Rubio Urges Trump To Create Task Force On Puerto Rico Reconstruction. Reuters (10/12, Cowan, Rampton) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio said Thursday that he has urged the President "to create a high-level task force to provide ideas and advice for helping Puerto Rico to rebuild after Hurricane Maria, and that the president was receptive to the idea." Rubio said that during a conversation with Trump on Sunday, "He was asking me, 'What do we need to do next?' ... My argument to him was, I have some ideas, but there are people who have even more, better ones, because they live or lived in Puerto Rico, they understand its politics, its economics, its pre-existing challenges and its long-term opportunities. ... He seemed to like the idea, and said they would follow up and see what that would look like."

Polls Show Americans Have "Negative View" Of Trump's Handling Of Puerto Rico Recovery.

Politico (10/12, Shepard, 3.6M) cites "a series of new surveys" in which "majorities think the Trump administration isn't doing enough to help Puerto Rico" and one which "suggests that a majority of voters don't think Trump cares about Puerto Rico's problems." The latest POLITICO/Morning Consult poll found



that "only 32 percent of registered voters think the federal government has done enough in response to Hurricane Maria." Similarly, in a Kaiser Family Foundation poll released Thursday, 40 percent "say the government is doing enough to restore electricity and access to food and water in Puerto Rico, while 52 percent say the government isn't doing enough." A Quinnipiac University poll found that 55 percent of voters "say Trump and his administration haven't done enough to help Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria," and "a majority of voters, 52 percent, say they don't think Trump cares about the problems facing Puerto Rico after Maria."

HOUSE APPROVES \$36.5 BILLION AID PACKAGE. The New York Times (10/12, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the House on Thursday "approved a \$36.5 billion aid package on Thursday that would provide hurricane and wildfire relief funding while bailing out the financially troubled National Flood Insurance." the aid package, which passed the House over "a smattering of concern for the rising cost," would also "help Puerto Rico's financially beleaguered government avoid running out of cash in the wake of Hurricane Maria." McClatchy (10/12, Drusch, Dumain, 67K) describes Thursday's debate as "a preview of some serious political griping that lies ahead on both sides of the aisle, and the complaints have the potential to interfere with future efforts to get aid to areas in desperate need of assistance." While "Texas and Florida officials sought additional funds for rebuilding efforts in their states," conservatives "issued new calls for spending cuts to help pay for the assistance as well as more transparency about how the money is spent," and "Democrats had their own set of grievances, calling for more money faster."

REPORTER HIGHLIGHTS AID GROUPS' DIFFICULTIES DELIVERING SUPPLIES. In an "Editorial Observer" piece for the New York Times (10/12, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), Times reporter Elizabeth Williamson laments the difficulties aid organizations have delivering supplies, "warehousing them and trucking them to people in need." Noting the aid groups' costs for delivery logistics, Williamson highlights the American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN), which "helps handle this, at little or no cost to aid organizations." ALAN "is a nonprofit network of transportation, warehousing, cold storage and distribution trade organizations that eases the flow of aid to disaster sites."

EPA ORDERS TWO COMPANIES TO CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTE SITE FLOODED BY HARVEY. In what the AP (10/12, Biesecker) says is a "rare victory" for environmentalists from the Trump Administration, the EPA "ordered two big corporations this week to pay \$115 million to clean up a Texas toxic waste site that may have spread dangerous levels of pollution during flooding from Hurricane Harvey." A directive signed by EPA Administrator Pruitt requires "International Paper and McGinnis Industrial Maintenance Corp., a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc., to excavate 212,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the San Jacinto River Waste Pits." The directive "triggers the beginning of what could be months of negotiations between EPA and the two companies to reach a final settlement."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: HOUSE DEMOCRATS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FUTILE EFFORTS TO IMPEACH TRUMP. The New York Times (10/12, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Rep. Al Green (D-TX) on Wednesday "walked onto the floor of the House and presented articles of impeachment against" President Trump, but "Congress, firmly in Republican control, barely blinked an eye. The dynamic is likely to become a lot more familiar on Capitol Hill as the Trump presidency and investigations into the president's associates grind on." The Times adds that "liberal Democrats are turning to one of Congress's most symbolically freighted cudgels — impeachment — to add urgency to their longstanding criticisms of a president they say is unfit for office. But with the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, still pursuing his investigation, the efforts lack the weight of a prosecutor's brief – and could become the objects of scorn, if not mockery."

Waters: Congress "Should Be Moving On Impeachment." The Washington Examiner (10/12, Lim, 465K) reports that during a Thursday appearance on MSNBC, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) said "there is now enough evidence stacked against...Trump as part of the Russia probe that the Congress 'should be moving on impeachment." Said Waters, "I believe that there really has been collusion and I do think that our special counsel [Robert] Mueller is going to connect those dots. But I think there's enough now that we all know, and we all see, and we all understand that we should be moving on impeachment."



"SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL": TRUMP ATTORNEYS MAY OFFER MUELLER A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. Politico (10/12, Samuelsohn, 3.6M) reported that attorneys for President Trump "are open to having the president sit down for an interview with Robert Mueller, according to a senior White House official, as part of a wider posture of cooperation with the special counsel's Russia probe. If Mueller doesn't request an interview by Thanksgiving," the President's attorney's "might even force the issue by volunteering Trump's time, the official said. The White House believes such an interview could help Mueller wrap up the probe faster and dispel the cloud of suspicion over Trump." Politico added that "the official suggested that the White House has no reason to stonewall Mueller. 'Whatever happens with regard to whether or not, or how, the special counsel might want to interview the president, there's no reason to expect that would be combative,' the senior White House official explained."

Lynch, Power To Appear Before Congressional Investigators. USA Today (10/12, Kelly, 8.62M) reports, "Two high-ranking Obama administration officials – former attorney general Loretta Lynch and former UN ambassador Samantha Power – will soon answer questions from congressional investigators probing Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election. Power is scheduled to meet with the House Intelligence Committee in a closed-door session" today, "according to a congressional aide." Meanwhile, Lynch "will answer questions on Capitol Hill next week, according to a person familiar with the matter." Lynch "is expected to meet behind closed doors with both the House and Senate Intelligence Committees."

Politico (10/12, Cheney, Gerstein, 3.6M) reported, "In addition to the Obama administration's handling of Russia's interference in US elections, Lynch is likely to be pressed by Republican lawmakers on her stewardship of the investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email use." The Washington Times (10/12, Boylan, 541K) reports, "Republicans have been eager to question Ms. Lynch about an infamous tarmac meeting with former President Bill Clinton in June 2016, a meeting which has triggered suspicions about the Obama Department of Justice's impartiality toward...Hillary Clinton at the height of the election."

Sandberg Says Facebook Will Turn Over More Info On Russia-Linked Ads. The New York Times (10/12, Kang, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg on Thursday said "that the company had promised to provide more information, including ad-targeting data, to government officials as part of a federal investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election." Appearing "at an event hosted by the website Axios," Sandberg "said she had told members of the House Intelligence Committee that Facebook would cooperate with lawmakers' requests for additional information about ads bought by accounts linked to Russia that were part of an effort to influence the presidential election." NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 6, 0:40, Holt, 16.61M) broadcast a clip of Sandberg saying at the Axios-hosted event, "Things happened on our platform in this election that should not have happened, especially and very troubling, foreign interference in a democratic election."

Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (10/12, 902K), "We had a good meeting with Sandberg yesterday and we have agreement that we are going to publish these ads. ... We want the American people to see these ads and see just how cynical they are, how the Russians meant to turn American against American and divide us. I'd also ultimately like to see the Twitter ads published, too. The Twitter ads were focused much more on attacking Hillary Clinton. Not that we expect to persuade" Trump, who's "in complete denial about the Russian involvement in the election, but the American people need to see just what the Russians were up to."

CBC Complains To Sandberg About Black Lives Matter Ads, Facebook Board's Lack Of Diversity. Politico (10/12, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reported that "during a lengthy Thursday meeting with" Sandberg, members of the Congressional Black Caucus pressed the COO over her company's "lily-white board and amplification of Russian ads that capitalized on Black Lives Matter." Politico added that CBC members "have long pushed Facebook and other tech titans to add more executives of color to their ranks, only to say they feel rebuffed or ignored by Silicon Valley. In the wake of Facebook's admission that it unwittingly accepted the inflammatory Russian ads, black lawmakers tried to impress upon Sandberg the effect that her company's platform has on public sentiment about social justice campaigns like Black Lives Matter."



NPR Says Kaspersky Lab No Longer A Corporate Sponsor. The Washington Free Beacon (10/12, Harrington, 158K) reported, "National Public Radio told the Washington Free Beacon that the Moscow-based software company Kaspersky Lab, which was used by hackers to steal classified documents from the National Security Agency, is no longer one of its corporate underwriters. NPR was still airing adds from Kaspersky on Wednesday morning and was disclosing Kaspersky Lab as a corporate sponsor in news reports last week. US officials suspect the company has ties to the Kremlin." The Free Beacon added that NPR spokesperson Isabel Lara on Thursday said, "Kaspersky Labs has been a sponsor of NPR for several years, but are no longer a current sponsor." Lara "said the corporate sponsorship did not end abruptly. 'The prior funding ended earlier this month and the credit schedule ran its course,' she said."

Professor Outlines Congress' Options Should Carter Page Take The Fifth. In a Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) op-ed, Randall D. Eliason, who teaches white-collar criminal law at George Washington University Law School, said, "Former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page reportedly has informed the Senate Intelligence Committee [investigating Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 election] that he will not agree to turn over documents or be interviewed and will assert his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent." With that in mind, Eliason outlines the various options the committee could take, saying the panel could "subpoena him. ... If Page is subpoenaed and continues to take the Fifth, the" panel "could simply accept the privilege claim and move on"; "vote to hold Page in contempt of Congress for refusing to testify"; or "immunize Page and compel him to testify."

GILLESPIE, WHITE HOUSE IN "SERIOUS TALKS" TO HAVE PRESIDENT STUMP FOR CANDIDATE. In a report on this fall's race to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), the Washington Post (10/12, Vozzella, 10.38M) says that conservative radio host John Fredericks, former chairman of President Trump's Virginia campaign, on Thursday said "that the White House is in 'very serious talks' with Ed Gillespie's gubernatorial campaign about having the president stump for him in the state. A Trump rally could fire up Trump supporters for Gillespie," says the Post, but such an "appearance could pose risks for Gillespie in purple Virginia," which Hillary Clinton carried by a five-point margin in 2016 – "the only Southern state won by the Democrat." Fredericks told the Post, "The days of Ed Gillespie threading the needle with President Trump are coming to an end. And he's got to get on stage with him, and motivate Trump voters to get out on November 7th in huge numbers, enthusiastically, to support this Republican ticket if he's going to win."

Gillespie: It's In Virginia's Best Interest For Governor To Have "Good Relationship" With Trump. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (10/12, Bartel, 256K) reports that Gillespie, "who has been mum when asked about...Trump's controversial tweets or comments, said Thursday that Virginia's next governor can't afford to have troubled rapport with the White House. 'If you're the governor of a state where 20 percent of your GDP is direct federal dollars, you better have a good relationship with the president of the United States,' Gillespie told a breakfast audience in" Virginia Beach. And referring to his opponent, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D), Gillespie said, "My job as governor of the commonwealth of Virginia will not be to be always for President Trump or be always against him – 'lead the resistance' as another candidate in this race says he is doing."

SHORT EXPLAINS TRUMP'S "FRUSTRATION" WITH MEDIA. Commenting on President Trump's tweet earlier this week, in which the President said, "With all of the Fake News coming out of NBC and the Networks, at what point is it appropriate to challenge their License?", White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said Thursday on CNN's Situation Room (10/12, 841K), "I think the President remains committed to the entire Constitution, including the First Amendment. But I think there is a frustration. It feels like in many cases there are alleged sources that come up with information that is pushed out and in many cases we consider fake news. So I think the President is expressing frustration a lot of Americans feel that there is an enormous bias against this Administration."

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (10/12, 902K), "The President is popping off on Twitter in a way that is normalizing unconstitutional statements. First, just to be clear...the President can't pull a license for NBC. The Federal Communications Commission, which is an independent agency,



licenses individual stations, not whole networks so there is no risk that the President is about to pull the license of networks with which he disagrees. But the idea that the President would repeatedly engage in public statements that are just obviously undermining the First Amendment is an alarming development. I agree with Senator Ben Sasse that we all have to stand up in common, those of us who are elected, those of us who are in the media, those of us who care about our constitutional values in civil society and push back on this. This is not normal behavior and it's not acceptable."

CNN ANALYSIS: ZINKE'S TRAVEL CONTINUES TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT ETHICS. CNN (10/11, Marsh, Wallace, 33.59M) reports online that Interior Secretary Zinke's travel – particularly, his trips mixing official business with political activities and visits home – has continued to raise questions about whether such trips were appropriate or violated ethics rules, as evidenced by the ongoing investigation into his travel by both the Interior Department's inspector general and the Office of Special Counsel. CNN highlights Zinke's March trip to the US Virgin Islands that included official meetings and a fundraiser, his May trip to Alaska that included officials meetings and a campaign reception, and his trip to Las Vegas, where he met with a Vegas hockey team owned by a major GOP donor. CNN observes that it "remains unclear whether any laws were broken, but ethics watchdog groups say Zinke's official travel mixed with political activity are at the very least bad optics."

Zinke Has Special Flag Over Interior Headquarters. The Washington Post (10/12, Rein, 10.38M) reports on the "arcane military ritual" that Zinke has revived during his tenure – the hoisting of a special secretarial flag on the roof of the Interior Department's headquarters whenever he arrives and the flag's retrieval whenever he leaves. The Post observes that the ritual is "unique" in the Administration. In an email to the Post, press secretary Heather Wilson "defended the Navy flag-flying tradition as 'a major sign of transparency."

PERRY DEFENDS TRAVEL USING PRIVATE PLANE. USA Today (10/12, Collins, 8.62M) reports Energy Secretary Perry on Thursday defended his decision to travel using a chartered plane to Ohio on September 28, "saying non-commercial travel is sometimes necessary to do his job." Addressing members of the House energy subcommittee on Thursday, Perry said, "I travel a lot to do my job. ... I do it in a way I think is thoughtful, with the taxpayers in mind."

Reuters (10/12, Flitter, Gardner) reports Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) sent a letter to the Energy Department's inspector general on Thursday requesting the IG to investigate Perry's travel using chartered planes. In the letter, Pallone "said Perry's trips on chartered planes need scrutiny in light of the 'extreme' budget cuts the department faces in a 2018 federal budget proposed by Republican President Donald Trump." Citing a \$35,000 flight Perry took from Washington to a private airport in Kansas, Pallone wrote, "It is unclear why Secretary Perry would require such costly travel in instances where more economical options were readily available."

HOUSE DEMOCRATS SEEK TO EXPAND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR REPORTING TRAVEL EXPENSES. Politico (10/12, Cheney, 3.6M) reports House Democrats on Thursday moved to expand whistleblower protections for federal employees who report superiors for "improper use of air transportation." Following mounting questions of Administration officials' use of expensive methods of travel, lawmakers "offered the proposal as part of a debate over broader whistleblower protection." The proposal "was rejected by Republicans, as expected, but forced GOP lawmakers to vote on an issue that has drawn increasing scrutiny."

KELLY SAYS TRUMP PLANS MORE FED INTERVIEWS. <u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/12, Epstein, Jacobs, 4.52M) reports White House Chief of Staff Kelly said Thursday that President Trump plans to hold more interviews as he decides whom to appoint as next chairman of the Federal Reserve. At the White House's regular briefing on Thursday, Kelly said, "All of the people who've been in to interview have been first-round draft choices. ... We still have more to come." Kelly did not name anyone Trump is considering or provide specific timing for a decision, beyond saying it was "some time away."

Trump Interviews Taylor. The Wall Street Journal (10/12, Davidson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Trump interviewed Stanford economist John Taylor on Wednesday about his potential



nomination as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve, according to a White House official.

ROSS SEEKS ANOTHER \$3.3 BILLION FOR 2020 CENSUS. The Los Angeles Times (10/12, Rosenblatt, 4.49M) reports that in testimony Thursday before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Commerce Secretary Ross asked lawmakers for another \$3.3 billion to complete the 2020 census, which is "now estimated to cost \$15.6 billion." According to Ross, the additional funds are needed to implement new technology ahead of practice-runs next year and to increase participation. Ross told the panel, "The census is the bedrock upon which we construct our system of democratic representation. ... With the changes I have detailed and additional resources requested, I am confident we will have a full, fair and accurate census."

NYTimes Analysis: Tax Cuts Could Increase Bank Stocks But Banks Have Other Concerns. A New York Times (10/12, Currie, Foley, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) analysis says that while tax cuts could help boost Wall Street bank stocks, "they're at best some way off," and "in the meantime, banks have other concerns," including providing returns to their shareholders, "sluggish loan growth," and rising loan defaults.

TRUMP FAILED TO SALUTE FLAG DURING MILITARY CEREMONY. The New York Post (10/12, Tacopino, 4.31M) reported that President Trump "neglected to salute the flag during a military ceremony at an Airforce hangar in Pennsylvania on [Wednesday] night." The President "openly questioned why the bugle sound of 'Retreat' was playing in the background, according to the military publication Task and Purpose. ... During the ceremony, the American flag is lowered and raised as both service members and civilians pay their respects, Task and Purpose explained." As "members of the audience stood up behind" the President "to salute the flag," Trump — who as the time was being interviewed by Fox News' Sean Hannity — "appeared to be unaware of the tradition."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: LABOR LAW MAY FAVOR NFL PLAYERS IN ANTHEM PROTESTS. The New York Times (10/12, Scheiber, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that as NFL "owners consider President Trump's call to fire players who refuse to stand for the national anthem, they have stumbled into one of the most consequential debates in today's workplace: How far can workers go in banding together to address problems related to their employment? In principle, the answer in the NFL and elsewhere may be: Quite far." The Times adds that labor law protects "any 'concerted activities' that employees engage in to support one another in the workplace, whether or not a union is involved. The National Labor Relations Board and the courts have defined such activity to include everything from airing complaints about one's boss through social media to publicly supporting political causes that have some bearing on one's work life."

Under the headline "Police-Focused NFL Protests Overlook Rising, Disproportionate Black Homicide Rate," meanwhile, the <u>Washington Times</u> (10/12, Richardson, 541K) reports, "Lost in the uproar over the NFL sideline protests against police brutality are newly released statistics showing that the threat to black men is skyrocketing – not from trigger-happy or racist cops, but from crime. More than any other demographic group, black men are paying the price with their lives with a surging violent crime rate over the past two years, including a 20 percent jump in the overall homicide rate, even as the number of blacks killed by police declines," according to a study by "Manhattan Institute fellow Heather Mac Donald," who "found that the number of black homicide victims has jumped by nearly 900 per year since the Black Lives Matter movement took root in 2014."

IN TWEETS TO BEZOS, MCGOWAN SAYS SHE TOLD AMAZON STUDIOS SHE WAS RAPED BY WEINSTEIN. Page Six (10/12, Brown, 455K) reports that actress Rose McGowan on Thursday "appeared to publicly accuse Harvey Weinstein of raping her – tweeting that she repeatedly warned the head of Amazon Studios about what 'HW' had done and "begged" the company not to work with the producer. '@jeffbezos I told the head of your studio that HW raped me. Over & over I said it. He said it hadn't been proven. I said I was the proof,' she tweeted to Amazon boss Jeff Bezos." Page Six added that McGowan "has in the past said that she was 'raped by a Hollywood studio head' and a report last week said Weinstein had paid her a confidential \$100,000 settlement following 'an episode in a hotel room during the Sundance Film Festival.'"



In a story that led the Drudge Report Thursday night, the <u>Daily Mail</u> (10/12, Spargo, 5.15M) says that McGowan claimed "Amazon optioned a television series from her only to kill it while still in development after she voiced her concern about a possible move the company was making to bailout 'Weinstein.'" The Daily Mail quotes McGowan as tweeting to Bezos, "I had already sold a script I wrote to your studio, it was in development. When I heard a Weinstein bailout was in the works," adding, "I forcefully begged studio head to do the right thing. I was ignored. Deal was done. Amazon won a dirty Oscar."

Number Of Weinstein Accusers Continues To Rise. On the CBS Evening News (10/12, story 8, 2:20, 11.17M), Anthony Mason reported, "At least 32 women [have] accused" Weinstein "of sexual harassment or assault." CBS' Jericka Duncan also reported on McGowan's tweets "at Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos." On NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 5, 1:55, Holt, 16.61M), Anne Thompson reported, "Today it's actress Kate Beckinsale telling her Harvey Weinstein story. On Instagram, Beckinsale writes about hotel room incident with Weinstein when she was 17. 'After declining alcohol and announcing that I had school in the morning, I left uneasy but unscathed.' A few years later, Beckinsale says Weinstein 'asked if he had tried anything in that meeting. I realized he couldn't remember if he had assaulted me or not.'" Thompson added, "With nearly 30 women now coming forward, criminal inquiries spanning the Atlantic. London's Scotland Yard reportedly investigating [a] sexual assault claim from the '80s. Here in New York, police say they're getting tips as they take another look at Weinstein to see if there are any additional complaints."

On <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (10/12, story 9, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M), Linsey Davis reported, "While Weinstein denies any allegations of non-consensual sex, more than two dozen women have now accused Weinstein of harassment, abuse, and rape. ... For some of these allegations that occurred decades ago, those would not be able to be prosecuted. But now, in New York and California, there's no longer a statute of limitations for forcible sexual assaults."

The New York Times (10/12, Baker, Castle, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, "The police in London and New York said Thursday that they were looking into complaints involving...Weinstein, the latest turn in a scandal that has consumed Hollywood over allegations of sexual abuse and harassment. The new reports are preliminary, but the fact that the police are reviewing them points to the breadth of the legal challenges that Mr. Weinstein could face."

Conway, Hannity Criticize Hillary Clinton's Reaction. Commenting on Hillary Clinton's belated condemnation of Weinstein, presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on Fox News' Hannity (10/12, 2.37M), "It's clearly a continuation of the hypocrisy by Hillary Clinton and other so-called feminists like her. Let's go back to the Oscars a few weeks ago. Can you imagine for every unfunny political joke that was told, for every time [Trump's] name was invoked, had we replaced that with Weinstein or rape or sexual predator, or if somebody had actually used her power on the stage. ... What if one of them over these many, many years that this has been going on allegedly, what if one of them stood up in front of a live TV worldwide audience and said, 'You know what? Instead of thanking my mother in my third grade teacher and my mother and my producers and agents, I'm going to tell you a story about what goes on here in Hollywood."

In his opening monologue on Fox News' Hannity (10/12, 2.37M), Sean Hannity reacted to Hillary Clinton's comments on the Weinstein allegations, saying, "Let's take a moment to applaud Hillary Clinton's newfound moral compass. After all, this is the same Hillary Clinton who gladly took millions and millions and millions of dollars into the Clinton Foundation from countries with the most deplorable human rights records. Tonight, we want to know – Hillary, if you are sickened and shocked and so appalled, are you going to give the money back?"

Clinton Aides Team Up On Bourdain, Who's The Boyfriend Of A Weinstein Accuser. The Washington Free Beacon (10/12, Kugle, 158K) reports, "Current and former aides to Hillary Clinton ganged up on Anthony Bourdain on Twitter after Bourdain criticized Clinton for her delayed response to the sexual harassment allegations against Harvey Weinstein." The Free Beacon said, "The Weinstein controversy is personal for Bourdain," who's "dating Italian actress and director Asia Argento, one of



Weinstein's alleged victims." After Bourdain's criticism of Clinton, added the Free Beacon, her communications director, Nick Merrill, her former campaign spokesman, Brian Fallon, and Clinton adviser Adam Parkhomenko all chided Bourdain.

In Reversal, Cuomo Now Says He'll Give Away All Weinstein Donations. The AP (10/12) reports that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), who faces reelection next year, "now plans to give away all of the campaign contributions he's collected from disgraced Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein." Cuomo "on Thursday had earlier said he gave away just \$50,000 of the over \$110,000 he's received in total from Weinstein because the rest of the money had already been spent," calling "it the 'right symbol.' But later Thursday evening, Cuomo's campaign reversed course and released a statement saying they were taking 'the extraordinary step' of giving away all of Weinstein's contributions from prior campaigns."

The New York Times (10/12, McKinley, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Cuomo's reversal came in the wake of "increasing pressure from Republicans and his own Democratic colleagues." The Times adds, "According to the Republican National Committee, Mr. Cuomo had been the last Democrat of national stature – he is a purported contender for the party's 2020 nomination, an ambition he denies – to not return or donate all of the money handed out by Mr. Weinstein."

FEINSTEIN: REPUBLICANS ABOUT TO EXPAND WHITE HOUSE POWER BY ENDING BLUE SLIP TRADITION. In a Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) op-ed, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) argues against congressional Republicans' threats to eliminate the so-called "blue slip" tradition, by which senators must return a "blue slip" that indicates their agreement that judicial nominees should receive a hearing in the Judiciary Committee. Calling the tradition "the last remaining tool that ensures home-state senators of both parties play a role in the process of appointing judges," Feinstein concludes that Republicans "should ask themselves if they're willing to permanently cede the Senate's 'advise and consent' responsibility to the White House."

WRAY SAYS MOTIVE FOR LAS VEGAS SHOOTING STILL UNCLEAR. The AP (10/12, Brumback) reports FBI Director Wray said Thursday that investigators have yet to determine a motive behind Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock's mass shooting. Addressing reporters in front of the FBI's Atlanta building, Wray added that considerable efforts are going into "unraveling this horrific act."

MGM Releases New Shooting Timeline That Differs From Police Account. NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 8, 0:20, Holt, 16.61M) reported a "big revision" came Thursday to the Las Vegas shooting timeline, with the company that owns the Mandalay Bay Hotel saying that Stephen Paddock "shot a hotel security guard within one minute of when he began firing out the window at the outdoor concert." Police earlier had said the guard was shot six minutes earlier, "raising a question about just how fast the hotel reported it."

ABC World News Tonight (10/12, story 8, 1:40, Muir, 14.63M) reported that under this "new timeline," MGM is "disputing what police have said and insists there was no six-minute gap between the time that Stephen Paddock shot a security guard in the hallway and the moment he opened fire" on concert-goers. The implication of the company's Thursday statement is that by the time hotel security was notified about a gunman, "the massive attack was already underway."

The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/12, story 9, 1:05, Mason, 11.17M) reported that while it is still unknown as to when hotel staff called police, law enforcement officials "are expected to hold a formal press conference tomorrow to help clear up that timeline."

MCCLATCHY: DEMOCRATS SEEKING TO LINK GOP CANDIDATES TO BANNON. McClatchy (10/12, Glueck, Roarty, 67K) reports that "in federal and state races" this election cycle, "Democrats across the country have turned" ex-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon "into the avatar of everything wrong and extreme about the GOP, relishing the chance to" link him "to Republican candidates. It's a messaging tactic that has intensified in the last two weeks, as Bannon" steps "up his involvement on behalf of antiestablishment candidates in GOP primaries," offering "Democrats a new opportunity to highlight growing GOP disunity."



POLL: REPUBLICAN MOORE LEADS JONES 49%-41% IN DEC. 12 SPECIAL ELECTION. The Huntsville (AL) Times (10/12, Gattis, 734K) reports that a Cygnal poll of 497 Alabama voters, taken Oct. 2-5, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore (R) leading ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) 49%-41% in the Dec. 12 special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions. The Times says the findings are "consistent with two other polls released during the general election campaign that had Moore leading by six and eight points."

The Hill (10/12, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that though "some Democrats are calling for a full-court press" in support of Jones, "thanks to Moore's history of controversial remarks on issues like gay marriage, others are skeptical that any amount of money can turn the tide in such a reliably Republican state. Adding to Democratic wariness, the margin between Moore and Jones doesn't appear to be tightening since last month's GOP primary runoff. Cygnal's pre-primary polling also found an 8-point race." Drawing from The Hill story, Breitbart (10/12, Poor, 2.42M) also reported on the poll results.

WPost Analysis: Sale Of Headquarters Of Charity Once Led By Moore Could Net Him \$540K. The Washington Post (10/12, O'Harrow, Boburg, 10.38M) reports, "A charity once led by...Moore has put its historic building in Montgomery, Ala., up for sale, a transaction that could bring Moore \$540,000 because of an unusual compensation arrangement he made while serving as the nonprofit group's president. The 1850s-era building was put on the market in April for nearly \$1.9 million by Moore's wife, Kayla, now president of the charity, said Ed Fleming, the listing agent for the property." The Post adds, "The circumstances of the listing add to questions swirling around the charity and more than \$1 million in compensation for Roy Moore while he was working part time from 2007 to 2012."

In 2010, Moore Signed Resolution Backing States' Rights To Nullify Federal Law. On its website, CNN (10/12, Kaczynski, Massie, 33.59M) reported that Moore "signed onto a resolution in 2010 affirming the right of states to nullify, or void, federal law." CNN quoted the resolution as reading, "We pledge to limit and restrain all federal government exercise of power that exceeds in any way the plain language of those few powers listed in the Constitution and to nullify all others that exceed such limit." CNN said the resolution, which Moore signed while mounting an unsuccessful gubernatorial bid, represents his "most explicit affirmation of nullification, a theory with a long and controversial history in the" US.

IN AD, FLAKE PRIMARY FOE WARD CALLS FOR TAX REFORM. The Hill (10/12, Easley, 1.68M) reported that ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R-AZ), who is mounting a primary challenge to Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), calls "for tax reform in a new digital ad that her campaign plans to push across social media platforms." In the spot, Ward says, "Presidents Kennedy and Reagan both proved that tax cuts work. They create jobs and generate economic growth. That's why we need tax reform again." While the GOP hopeful "does not mention President Trump in the" spot, it "comes a day after Trump visited Pennsylvania to push for his tax reform package, while Ward looks to tie her candidacy to the president's agenda." The Hill added, "The five-figure digital ad buy is part of a series of ads focused on policy issues the campaign plans to roll out over the next three months."

SCARBOROUGH TWEETS THAT HE'S LEFT THE GOP. The Hill (10/12, Manchester, 1.68M) reported that MSNBC host Joe Scarborough on Thursday said in a tweet that he has "officially left the Republican Party, roughly three months after he said he was ditching the GOP. 'I made it official today and became independent. Here I'm holding Donald Trump's birth certificate, which proves he was born in Nambia,' Scarborough said. His tweet was referring to Trump's past claim that former President Obama was born outside the US, as well as an incident in which Trump, speaking to African leaders at the United Nations, referenced a non-existent country called 'Nambia.'" Scarborough's "tweet was apparently deleted later on Thursday evening."

CNN Contributor Says What's Left Of Trump's Base Is Nazis. Townhall (10/12, Vespa, 523K) reports CNN contributor Brian Karem said Monday that what remains of President Trump's base of supporters is white supremacists and the Nazi Party. During a panel discussion with Wolf Blitzer on the social media dispute between Trump and Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), Karem said, "As his [Trump's] support has slipped slightly, you've seen his rhetoric go farther and farther to the extreme to embrace a base that includes



David Duke and white supremacists and the Nazi Party. ... That's the group. He's not embracing them, but that's what's left in that group."

DONNELLY RAISES \$1.3M, IN Q3, HAS \$4.6M BANKED FOR REELECTION RACE. The AP (10/12) reports that Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN), "considered one of the most vulnerable Democrats up for reelection" next year, on Thursday "reported \$1.3 million in donations during the" third quarter of 2017, "pushing his campaign war chest total up to \$4.6 million." Meanwhile, in the GOP Senate primary, Rep. Luke Messer's (R-IN) on Thursday said "that it raised \$735,000 during the same period, with \$2.4 million on hand," while state Rep. Mike Braun (R-IN), "an independently wealthy businessman who entered the race in August, raised about \$200,000" in Q3, "while kicking in roughly \$800,000 of his own money." Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN) has yet to release his latest fundraising numbers, "but indicated it will likely be less than the \$1 million figure it reported in July."

The <u>Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette</u> (10/12, Francisco, 173K) reported, "Three non-partisan political analysts – Cook Political Report, Inside Elections and Sabato's Crystal Ball" – rate the "Senate race a toss-up regardless of Donnelly's Republican opponent in the 2018 general election."

"Pro-Trump" Group's Poll Shows A Vote Against Tax Reform Could Hurt Donnelly. The Washington Examiner (10/12, Lawler, 465K) reported that according to a poll conducted by the "pro-Trump political action committee" America First Policies, Donnelly "would pay a political price in his home state of Indiana if he opposes the GOP tax reform effort." The poll "found that 41 percent of Indiana voters would be less likely to vote for Donnelly if he opposed the tax plan, versus 33 percent who said they would be more likely." The Examiner added that Donnelly will be seeking reelection in a state President Trump carried "by nearly 20 percentage points" in last November's election.

MCCASKILL RAISES \$2.9M IN THIRD QUARTER, HAS \$7.1M CASH IN HAND. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (10/12, Raasch, 831K) reports that Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), up for reelection in 2018, "raised about \$2.9 million" during the third quarter of this year, "a Missouri record for that stretch of a Senate campaign," ending the period "with about \$7.1 million in the bank." McClatchy (10/12, Wise, 67K) also reports on the fundraising numbers of McCaskill, "[o]ne of the most vulnerable Senate Democrats seeking re-election" next year.

GOP Hopeful Hawley Raises \$820K In A Little Over Two Months. Breitbart (10/12, Moons, 2.42M) reported that state Attorney General Josh Hawley (R-MO), who is mounting a bid to unseat McCaskill, "will report more than \$820,000 raised for the third quarter of 2017." Hawley, who announced his challenge to McCaskill earlier this week, had been exploring a run for "just over two months."

BALDWIN RAISES \$2.4M IN Q3, HAS \$5.3M IN CAMPAIGN WAR CHEST. The AP (10/12) reports that Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), who faces reelection in 2018, "raised \$2.4 million" during the third quarter of this year, ending the period with "\$5.3 million cash on hand." The AP adds that businessman Kevin Nicholson (R) and state Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-WI), who are battling in the GOP Senate primary, "raised \$260,000 collectively over the same three months, but neither of them was in the race the entire quarter." Nicholson entered "the race in late June and raised \$400,000," while Vukmir collected "\$250,000 in three weeks."

POLITICO ANALYSIS: PROSECUTION'S CASE AGAINST MENENDEZ SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN SHORT. Politico (10/12, Friedman, 3.6M) reported that after the prosecution on Wednesday rested its case in the federal corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and his longtime friend and donor, eye doctor Salomon Melgen, Judge William Walls "indicated he may dismiss most of the 18 charges against Menendez. Prosecutors were unable to produce a smoking gun demonstrating" Menendez "explicitly promised to do something for [Melgen] in exchange for a gift or campaign contribution. Still, Walls said he would not dismiss lesser charges the Democrat filed false information by not listing private jet flights and hotel stays provided by Melgen on his US Senate financial disclosure forms. The latest developments are no doubt good news for Menendez," though "not necessarily for his party: If Menendez prevails in court, Democrats would face the real possibility that the powerful senator will be hell-bent on running for reelection next year, despite having gone through an embarrassing and politically damaging trial."



GOP SEN. COLLINS TO REVEAL DECISION ON MAINE GOVERNOR'S RACE TODAY. Politico (10/12, Kim, Everett, 3.6M) reported that Sen. Susan Collins (R) "will announce at a local Chamber of Commerce event on Friday whether she will" mount a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Maine Gov. Paul LePage (R) – "a decision that remains shrouded in secrecy and could upend the Senate political landscape. The influential moderate plans to make the announcement during a speech she's giving on health care in Rockport, Maine, according to a source familiar with the event." Collins "is not up for reelection until 2020. [LePage] would tap a replacement to serve out the rest of Collins' Senate term should she be elected governor."

NRCC SHATTERS ITS FUNDRAISING RECORD FOR "ANY PREVIOUS OFF-YEAR CYCLE." McClatchy (10/12, Glueck, 67K) reported that the National Republican Congressional Committee "has shattered its non-election year fundraising record in the first three quarters of 2017." The NRCC "has raised \$72.6 million in 2017 so far, more than it raised in a full year in any previous off-year cycle," outpacing "2015's total fundraising haul by \$10.4 million. The NRCC pulled in \$4.9 million in September and has \$38.4 million cash on hand, which is \$18.5 million more than the cash on hand total at the same time in 2015, according to the committee." The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee "has not yet released its September fundraising numbers."

Politico: Ryan Has Raised \$39M This Year For House Republicans. Politico Playbook (10/12, Palmer, 3.62M) reported that House Speaker Paul Ryan "has raised \$39 MILLION for House Republicans so far in 2017." Politico said that Ryan raised \$6 million in the third quarter of this year. He "has sent nearly \$30 million to the NRCC this year, including \$2 million in August and \$1 million in September. The NRCC has raised \$72 million in 2017 – meaning almost half the money came from the speaker himself."

"SENIOR HOUSE REPUBLICANS" UNHAPPY WITH GRIMM'S PRIMARY CHALLENGE TO DONOVAN. Politico (10/12, Bade, Bresnahan, 3.6M) reported, "House Republicans have a message for" former Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY), a convicted felon who is mounting a 2-18 primary challenge to Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY): "Stay home." Politico added that "senior House Republicans" are concerned "the man who once threatened to throw a reporter off a balcony, and brandished a gun during a nightclub altercation with his lady companion's estranged husband, will be a major distraction to their legislative agenda. Grimm could also provide Democrats with ample fodder to flip the swing district." For example, "moderate" Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH), "who says he's friends with Grimm," told Politico, "I just think it's difficult for someone who copped a plea and went to jail for tax evasion to have credibility with colleagues. He'd be a big distraction here on the House floor and a big distraction in committee (hearings). It would be a circus."

STUMPING FOR MURPHY, BIDEN RIPS GUADAGNO AD AS "THE RETURN OF WILLIE HORTON." The AP (10/12, Catalini) reports that former Vice President Biden on Thursday stumped in New Jersey with ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D), who is battling Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R) in next month's election to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R). During an appearance with Murphy in Edison, Biden criticized a Guadagno ad "as the 'return of Willie Horton' and" farmed "the election as an opportunity to rebuke President Donald Trump. 'What's going on right now is the new ad I just saw,' Biden" said, adding, "The return of Willie Horton." Biden was "referring to an explosive 1988 anti-Michael Dukakis ad. Horton, a convicted killer, raped a woman while out of prison on a weekend furlough. The 1988 spot was designed to play on fears that Democrats were supposedly soft on crime, but the ad featuring the black felon was widely condemned as racist."

NJ News (10/12, Johnson, 1.21M) reports that Guadagno's ad claims that Murphy "would protect undocumented immigrants who commit crimes, including 'deranged murderers,'" citing "Jose Carranza, a Peruvian immigrant in the country illegally who was convicted in 2007 in the killings of three friends in a Newark schoolyard. Carranza was previously arrested for raping a child and released on bail. The ad then references comments Murphy made last month at a town hall," where he "was asked about Carranza and at which point he believes state authorities should notify federal immigration officials about when undocumented immigrants are being held in custody. Murphy replied that 'my bias is going to be having their back' – a line Guadagno uses in the ad."



Murphy Holds Large Cash Edge Over Guadagno. Meanwhile, the AP (10/12) reports that Murphy "has raised roughly three times more cash than...Guadagno." The Election Law Enforcement Commission "said Thursday that Murphy has raised \$10.3 million so far to Guadagno's \$3 million. Murphy has spent about \$5 million so far while Guadagno has doled out \$2 million. Murphy has more than \$5 million in reserves, while Guadagno has less than \$1 million."

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES CONTINUE, WITH DEATH TOLL REACHING 29. Media coverage of California's wildfires continued Thursday night, with networks highlighting the fires' continued deadliness and devoting 11 minutes, 30 seconds to the story, compared to 15 minutes, 35 seconds the night before. NBC Nightly News (10/12, story 4, 2:05, Holt, 16.61M) reported the death toll has reached "at least 29" and is "still climbing" as "nearly two dozen" wildfires continue to burn across the state. The mayor of Santa Rosa announced Thursday that in that town alone, more than 2,800 homes had been destroyed.

ABC World News Tonight (10/12, story 2, 2:40, Muir, 14.63M) reported the entire city of Calistoga, 5,000 people, were ordered to evacuate as strong winds propelled fire through Napa County on Thursday. California Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci said, "We are not out of this emergency. We're not even close to being out of this emergency." ABC World News Tonight (10/12, story 3, 0:30, Muir, 14.63M) later reported California's fire chief also "said" the crisis "could get worse before it gets better." Fire weather watches remain "for a huge chunk of California, especially Southern California, where tomorrow, conditions will be critical."

In its lead story, the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/12, lead story, 2:25, Mason, 11.17M) reported that with nearly 200,000 acres burned and 29 dead, the wildfires "are now the deadliest in the state's modern history."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/12, Kohli, Sahagun, John, Agrawal, Megerian, 4.49M) reports Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano told reporters at a briefing Thursday that it could take weeks or even months before all the bodies from the devastation are identified. When asked whether he expected the death toll to rise, he said, "I'd be unrealistic if I didn't."

The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/11, Wootson, Phillips, Achenbach, Wong, 10.38M) reports winds in Northern California "have calmed, for now, giving firefighters a badly needed break from the 'red flag' conditions that have made this menacing arc of flames so deadly and destructive."

Experts Say Urban Growth Has Fueled Wildfires. The Washington Post (10/12, A1, Greenberg, 10.38M) reports that fire experts in California say the state's trend in recent decades toward increased urbanization has provided conditions that have helped worsen wildfires. The Post highlights statements from several fire officials, including Cal Fire spokesman Jonathan Cox, who said, "Areas that would 20 years ago have nothing now are interface environments. ... Take the sheer number of square acres that are involved with intermix and wildland-urban spaces, combine that with the frequency and intensity of fires increasing – it's a recipe for disaster."

CALIFORNIA SECESSION GROUP SAYS PROCESS WOULD BE EASIER THAN CATALONIA'S FROM SPAIN. McClatchy (10/12, Irby, 67K) reports the California Freedom Coalition, a group campaigning for the state's secession from the US, have said they think California's secession would be easier than that of Catalonia from Spain. Dave Martin, the coalition's director of research and policy, said, "There are definitely similarities in the fiscal situation – we both give more than we get back. ... But there's more flexibility in the US Constitution for secession than there is in the Spanish one. California has more tools available to it."

GROUP URGES CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS TO REPRIMAND GORSUCH FOR SPEECH. The Washington Times (10/12, Swoyer, 541K) reports that Free Speech For People, "a non-profit progressive organization," sent an open letter to Chief Justice John Roberts on Thursday "asking him to reprimand Supreme Court Justice Neil M. Gorsuch for giving a speech at the Trump International Hotel in Washington D.C. last month, saying it violated the Code of Conduct for US Judges." The group "joined"



other allied organizations in protesting Justice Gorsuch's speech in September, alleging he is not maintaining integrity and independence by appearing at an educational event, which was hosted by The Fund for American Studies at the venue."

GOOGLE UNVEILS JOB TRAINING PROGRAM, PLEDGES \$1 BILLION TOWARD EDUCATION, TRAINING. The New York Times (10/12, Wakabayashi, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Google unveiled a job training initiative on Thursday, called Grow With Google, which aims to help train Americans for jobs in the tech sector by creating "an online destination for job seekers to get training and professional certificates and for businesses to improve their web services." The company also "committed to donating \$1 billion over the next five years to nonprofits in education and professional training."

NYTimes Analysis: After Years Of Being Hailed As Saviors, Tech Giants Face Criticism. In an analysis, the New York Times (10/12, Streitfeld, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) observes that US tech giants, once seen as a source freedom and progress, now "are under fire for creating problems instead of solving them" – evidenced most recently by heightened criticism of Facebook, Twitter, and Google over "how their ad and publishing systems were harnessed by the Russians" during the 2016 presidential election. Beyond the election, tech companies also are the subject of growing concert for accruing "a tremendous amount of power and influence."

FILMING OF EMINEM'S ANTI-TRUMP VIDEO DETAILED. The <u>Detroit Free Press</u> (10/12, McCollum, 1.07M) has a feature on the filming of rapper Eminem's "viral video blasting President Donald Trump," which "was filmed during the middle of a workday in a busy Detroit parking deck." The "freestyle rap, broadcast four days later during the BET Hip Hop Awards, garnered round-the-clock news coverage while racking up more than 21 million online views."

SCARAMUCCI, FOX NEWS' GUILFOYLE REPORTEDLY DATING. Page Six (10/12, Smith, 455K) reports that "short-lived former White House communications director" Anthony Scaramucci, "is wooing glamorous Fox News anchor Kimberly Guilfoyle," according to "multiple sources." The two "deny they are an item." Guilfoyle was once married to Gavin Newsom, now the lieutenant governor of California.

HIAASEN OFFERS "WHITE HOUSE GUIDELINES FOR NAME-CALLING." In his Miami Herald (10/12, 701K) column, Carl Hiaasen pens a "rejected first draft of new White House guidelines for name-calling" that bans terms like "moron" and "adult day-care center." He writes, "You are permitted to use almost any offensive language the president likes to use, and you may use it about anybody except the president. His personal favorites include but aren't limited to 'pig,' 'dope,' 'slob,' 'dummy,' 'liar,' 'cheater' and 'psycho.'"

U OF MICHIGAN STUDENT DEFENDS INVITING MURRAY TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS. In an op-ed for the New York Times (10/12, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), Jesse Arm, a senior at the University of Michigan, writes that the American Enterprise Institute's Michigan Executive Council, along with the University of Michigan College Republicans, recently sponsored a discussion with the controversial social scientist Charles Murray. As Arm writes, Murray's appearance was the target of campus protesters, and "after some 45 minutes of pandemonium," the protesters "marched out of the event en masse." Arm argues that the groups invited Murray to speak "because we feel it is important to make an unequivocal statement that we believe universities should remain bastions of civil debate and tolerance." Arm concludes, "should the fact that some don't want to hear an opinion mean that no one else gets to? We think not."

WPOST: LET WHITE NATIONALISTS MARCH AMID PUBLIC REVULSION. The Washington Post (10/12, 10.38M) editorializes that "after a few dozen racists led by Richard Spencer, the white nationalist, returned to Charlottesville for 15 minutes of torch-lit marching and chanting last weekend – a short-order reprise, without the violence, of their much larger demonstration in August – Mayor Mike Signer (D) said he is 'looking at all our legal options' to prohibit future such spectacles in the city." According to the Post, "it's easy to sympathize with Mr. Signer's anger and disgust," but "barring public assemblies and speeches by fringe groups, no matter how hateful, is the wrong way to respond to them, not to mention constitutionally indefensible." The Post argues that it is "better to let them march, and wither, in the full



glare and gaze of the public's revulsion."

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 22 Sep 2017 11:42:17 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 22,

2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

STATISTICS SHOW TEXAS YOUTH OBESITY RATES STILL ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE BUT DOWN FROM 2012. The Houston Chronicle (9/21, Deam, 1.97M) reports statistics from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation show that 33.3 percent of Texan kids age 10 to 17 were overweight or obese in 2016; while that is a "rate higher than the national average," it also shows an improvement in adolescent weight levels since 2012, when 36.6 percent of the kids in the same age group were overweight or obese. According to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation CEO and President Richard Besserm, "Obesity rates are still far too high, but the progress we've seen in recent years is real and it's encouraging," though that progress "could be easily undermined if leaders and policymakers at all levels don't continue to prioritize efforts that help all Americans leader healthier lives."

NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + Latest ACA Repeal Bill Could Be "Most Far-Reaching" Of All GOP Proposals.
- + States That Expanded Medicaid Could Lose \$180 Billion Under Latest ACA Repeal Bill, Analysis Indicates.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + Criticism Of HHS Secretary Tom Price's Use Of Private Jets For Official Travel Continues.
- + Two House Democrats Call For Extended Open Enrollment Period For Medicare Advantage, Federal Exchange Plans To Help Those Affected By Hurricanes.
- + House Republicans Ask Price, Merck For Updates On How They Are Addressing Cybersecurity Threats In Healthcare.
- + Administration Hints At New Medicare Policies.
- + Editorial: Utah Must Press Feds For Approval Of Medicaid Waiver To Fund Drug Rehabilitation Initiative.
- + Minnesota Governor Releases Email From HHS In Reinsurance Fight.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + NIH's Collins Turns To Long-Underrepresented Communities To Advance Precision Medicine.
- + NIH Researchers Partner With Sanofi To Develop Antibody That Attacks 99 Percent Of HIV Strains.
- + PET Scan Technique May Help Identify CTE In Living Patients.
- + NIH Seeks To Expand Public Access To Genomic Summary Results.
- + Researchers Halt Glioma Growth In Mice By Inhibiting Neuroligin-3.
- + Senate Health Committee To Hold Opioid Crisis Hearing On October 5.
- + Public Citizens Sues FDA Over Benzocaine In Baby Teething Medicine.
- + Opinion: Winners Of Federal Employee Service To America Medal Announced.
- + Former SAMHSA Director Calls Mobile App A "Game Changer" For Addiction Treatment.



HEALTH REFORM:

- + Graham-Cassidy Would Send Decisions To The States.
- + GOP Lawmakers Urging McCain To Support ACA Repeal Bill.
- + GOP's Renewed Push For ACA Repeal Reportedly Due In Large Measure To Political Necessity.
- + Trump Uses Twitter To Push GOP Healthcare Overhaul.
- + Pence Urges GOP To Support "Last Best Chance" To Repeal ACA.
- + Groups Seek To Pressure GOP Senators To Vote Against ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Insurers Scrambling To Keep Up With ACA Drama.
- + Senators To Debate Single-Payer Versus ACA Repeal During CNN Town Hall.
- + Sens. Graham, Cassidy Aim To Win Murkowski's Support With Special Accommodations For Alaska.
- + AMA, Other Physician Groups Strongly Criticize Latest ACA Repeal Bill.
- + States Unlikely To Establish Healthcare Systems Within Two Years As Mandated By New ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Republicans' Claim That ACA Repeal Bill Offers Protections For People With Pre-Existing Conditions Questioned.
- + New ACA Repeal Bill Could Include Some Protections For Alaska And Four Other States.
- + Architects Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill Described As An "Unlikely Group."
- + Chris Murphy Accuses GOP Of Attempting To Purchase Murkowski's Vote On ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Ryan Endorsed Graham-Cassidy Because He Considers It The "Best Last Chance" To Repeal ACA.
- + Ron Johnson Says Neither The ACA Nor The Latest ACA Repeal Bill Guarantees Coverage.
- + Joni Ernst Not Sure Latest ACA Repeal Bill Has Enough Votes.
- + Liberal Group Endorses Iowa Gubernatorial Candidate Who Advocates Single-Payer.
- + Nonprofit Launches Ads Urging California House GOP Members To Vote Against ACA Repeal Bill.
- + California House GOP Member Expresses Support For Latest ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Fate Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill May Depend On Collins, McCain And Murkowski.
- + James Comer Laments The Fact That Latest ACA Repeal Bill Lacks CBO Score.
- + Approaching Reconciliation Deadline May Convince GOP Senators To Vote For Latest ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Questionable Claims About Increased Funding For States Not Expected To Help Senate GOP Garner More Support For ACA Repeal Bill.
- + State Medicaid Directors Express Opposition To Latest ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Both Sides Pressuring Murkowski To Support Their Stance On ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Lack Of CBO Score Means GOP Senators Unsure About Impact Of Latest ACA Repeal Bill.
- + About One-Third Of Americans Want Congress To Overhaul ACA, Poll Indicates.
- + Ohio Navigator Programs Closing Due To Loss Of CMS Funds.
- + Jimmy Kimmel Accuses Sen. Cassidy Of Not Understanding His Own Bill Or Lying.
- + Jimmy Kimmel Takes Aim At President Trump On ACA Repeal.
- + Older People May Pay \$16,000 More Per Year Under Graham-Cassidy Bill, AARP Says.
- + Stephen Colbert Mocks Senate Republicans' Healthcare Bill.
- + Ohio Could Lose \$9 Billion Under Graham-Cassidy Bill, Report Says.
- + Activist Groups Protesting Graham-Cassidy Bill Outside Offices Of California's Republican Representatives In Congress.
- + New Jersey Could Lose Up To \$7.6 Billion In Federal Funding Under Graham-Cassidy, Reports Say.
- + Anthem Forecasts Increased Drug Costs To Justify 35 Percent Rate Hike In California.
- + Sen. Cassidy Uses GOP Healthcare Overhaul To Raise Campaign Money.
- + Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill Offers Extra Money For Alaska, Wisconsin.
- + Alabama Senate Candidate Moore May Oppose GOP Healthcare Bill.
- + Graham-Cassidy Bill Would Cost Rhode Island Billions, Leave Thousands Uninsured.
- + Affordable Care Act Premiums In South Carolina May Rise 31 Percent.
- + Alaska Hospital Official Declares GOP Healthcare Plan "50 States Of Chaos."
- + Insurers, Physicians, Hospitals, Patients Unite Against Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill.
- + Illinois Democrats Stand Opposed To Graham-Cassidy, Republicans Silent.
- + Sen. Ernst "Leaning Yes" On Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill.
- + Democratic Congressman Says McCain "Staring Death In The Face" Before Graham-Cassidy Vote.
- + Pennsylvania, New Jersey Could Lose Billions Under Latest APA Repeal.
- + Pro-Life Activists Pressure Sen. Paul To Support Graham-Cassidy Repeal Bill.



- + Women's Advocacy Group Sends Airplane Message To Sen. Collins Urging "No" Vote On ACA Repeal.
- + Sen. Graham Says, "We Are Going To Vote" On Healthcare Bill.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + CVS Will Follow CDC's Opioid Prescription Guidelines In New Effort To Address Addiction Epidemic.
- + Kristof: How Portugal May Have Won A War On Drugs.
- + Women Opioid Addicts Are Often Victimized By Sexual Violence.
- + Supporters Advocate For More Recovery Schools Amid Opioid Crisis.
- + West Virginia Attorney General Believes Federal Government Partially To Blame For Opioid Epidemic.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + US Supreme Court To Hear Case On Patient Record Disclosures For Medical Malpractice Suits.
- + California's Bill For Single-Payer May Get A Boost From National Conversation.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:

- + State Department Formally Recommends Capping Refugee Admissions At 50,000, Anonymous Officials Say.
- + Sessions Says Unaccompanied Minors Entering US Are Often "Wolves In Sheep's Clothing."

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

+ Death Wish Coffee Recalls Its Nitro Cold Brew Over Risk of Botulin Toxin.

NUTRITION & OBESITY:

+ Study Suggests Drinking One Fewer Soda Per Week Can Limit Weight Gain Over Two Years.

MEDICARE:

+ Southwest Medical Associates Reverses Decision To End Care For Traditional Medicare.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Future Of CoverKids Uncertain As CHIP Deadline Approaches.
- + Medicaid Reimbursements Delayed By Colorado's New System.
- + Renacci Says Medicaid Expansion Not Helping Ohio Combat Opioid Addiction.
- + Pennsylvania Holding Public Meetings To Explain New Medicaid Managed Care Program.
- + Suit Filed Against Iowa Medicaid Over Ban On Gender Transition Services.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + Flint's Lead-Contaminated Water Caused Rise In Fetal Death Rates, Study Finds.
- + Hearing Will Determine If Michigan Official Faces Trial In Flint Water Scandal.
- + San Diego Was Warned About Lack Of Bathrooms Long Before Hepatitis A Outbreak, Records Show.
- + Female Entrepreneur's Smart Breast Pump Struggles To Draw Interest From Mostly Male Venture Capitalists.
- + Middle-Aged Men Who Play A Sport Are More Likely To Stay Active Later In Life, Study Suggests.
- + Inaccessibility, Anti-Vaccination Parents The Largest Impediments To Global Polio Eradication, Officials Suggest.
- + FDA Warns Incorrect Dosing Of Liver Drug Could Be Fatal.
- + Many Drugmakers Fail To Conduct Required Post-Marketing Studies, Analysis Finds.
- + Companies Say Regulations Preventing Mobile Dialysis Centers From Helping Patients After Disasters.
- + Group Releases Comprehensive Report on Gender Diversity In Biotech Industry.
- + Study Suggests High-Dose Flu Vaccine Used By Elderly Could Benefit Adults With Chronic Conditions.
- + Study Suggests Increases In PM 2.5 Air Pollution Corresponds To Worsening Kidney Function.
- + Study Suggests E-Cigarettes With Nicotine May Boost Adrenaline Levels, Increasing Heart Stress.
- + FDA Approves Duodenoscope Intended To Curb Hospital-Acquired Infections.
- + St. Park City Council Plans To Resume Proposed Menthol Ban Hearing Next Wednesday.
- + Engineers In Two New York City Area Commuter Train Crashes Had Undiagnosed Sleep Disorders, US National Transportation Safety Board Says.



- + Exercising For 30 Minutes, Five Days Each Week May Reduce Risk of Early Death, Study Suggests.
- + Officials Confirm Michigan Hepatitis A Outbreak Worsens.
- + Florida Healthcare Association Backs Scott's Push To Increase Generator Capacity.
- + Investigators Reviewing Deaths Of 10 Nursing Home Residents Consider Prosecution.
- + Cancer Clinical Trials Such As ASCO's TAPUR Examining Targeted Treatments.
- + FDA Grants Approval To RAPIVAB (Peramivir) Flu Injection For Pediatric Patients.
- + Arizona Not Required To Reveal Source Of Execution Drugs, Federal Judge Rules.
- + Researchers Discover Cause Of Insulin Resistance In Mice, Then Reverse It.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + US, China Impose New Sanctions On North Korea.
- + Trump Says He Will Visit Puerto Rico To Survey Damage From Hurricane Maria.
- + Administration Targeting Program That Manages Long-Term Disaster Relief.
- + More Than 800 Remain In Florida Shelters After Hurricane Irma.
- + Tenth Resident From Florida Nursing Home Dies.
- + Climatologist Rebuts Claim That Active Hurricane Season Is Due To Climate Change.
- + Pence: Administration "Fully Cooperating" With Mueller Investigation.
- + DOJ Argues Court Should Nullify Arpaio Rulings After Trump Pardon.
- + White House Holds First Meeting On Reshaping Climate Change Goals.
- + Democrats Seek IG Probe Of Price's Use Of Charter Flights.
- + DeVos Pays For Private Plane For Official Business.
- + Perdue Motorcade Involved In Accident.
- + Attkisson: "It Looks Like Obama Did Spy On Trump, Just As He Apparently Did To Me."
- + Author: CNN's Acosta Is Administration's "Chief Antagonist" And White House's "Perfect Foil."
- + USA Today Analysis: Trump's Election Likely Changed Outcome Of Supreme Court's Labor Cases.
- + Former Obama Officials Form Coalition To Combat Rollback Of Protections For Student Borrowers.
- + Navajo Nation Plans To Sue Administration If It Reduces Size Of Bears Ears Monument.
- + House Pushing Two Measures To Ease Gun Restrictions.
- + SEC Faces Criticism After Admitting Data Breach.
- + Officials Consider Removing Federal Oversight Of AIG.
- + Corporate America Has Record Amount Of Cash.
- + Shale Billionaire Criticizes Government's "Exaggerated" Oil Projections.
- + Study Says Contaminated Water In Flint Led To Increase In Fetal Death Rates.
- + EEOC: Black Detectives Were Bypassed For NYPD Promotions.
- + Ex-Sheriff Clarke Responds To Journal Sentinel Reporter's Question With An "F-Bomb."
- + Controversy Grows Over New Jersey Columbus Day Celebrations.
- + TIME Analysis: Deeply Divided Democrats Show "No Sign" They've "Learned The Lessons" Of 2016.
- + Media Analyses: At Debate, Strange Touts Trump's Support, Moore Goes On The Attack.
- + Fox News Poll: Democrat Murphy Leads Guadagno 42%-29%.
- + BlackPAC To Spend \$1.1 Million To Mobilize Black Voters Ahead Of Virginia Election.
- + Flake Says He No Plans To Leave GOP And Run As An Independent.
- + Democrat Donnelly To Attend Pence's Event In Indiana Today.
- + Poll: Casey Job-Approval Rating Underwater, Barletta Largely Unknown.
- + DCCC Trounces NRCC In August Fundraising For Fourth Straight Month.
- + USA Today: Michigan Candidate May Show Democrats How To Win In Midwestern Trump States.
- + Cuomo Has Scheduled Fundraisers Across US Ahead Of Reelection Run.
- + Democrat Wolf's Job-Approval Rating In Negative Territory Ahead Of 2018 Reelection Race.
- + Source Says O'Donnell Meltdown May Have Been Leaked On Purpose.
- + Megyn Kelly: New Morning Show Will Be "Newsy" And "Talky."
- + WSJournal: Courts Defend Right To Work Legislation.
- + WPost: St. Louis Case Is Result Of Justice Department "Refusing To Rise" To Task.
- + Ohio Editor: "Trump Supporter Syndrome...Is Perfectly Normal Behavior."
- + Professor: Feinstein Is Not An Anti-Catholic Bigot For Questioning Judge's "Dogma."
- + WSJournal's Melchior: Emails Show Evergreen State Has Racial Hostility On Campus.

Leading the News:



LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL COULD BE "MOST FAR-REACHING" OF ALL GOP PROPOSALS. The New York Times (9/21, A1, Zernike, Abelson, Goodnough, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page that for years, "Republicans have dreamed of taking some of the vast sums the federal government spends on health care entitlements and handing the money over to states to use as they saw best." The article says they may accomplish this goal with their latest ACA repeal bill. The Times adds that this idea "is at the core of the bill that Senate Republican leaders have vowed to bring to a vote next week." Initially, the measure was considered "a long-shot effort by Senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy. But for all its ad hoc, last minute feel, it has evolved into the most far-reaching repeal proposal of all."

STATES THAT EXPANDED MEDICAID COULD LOSE \$180 BILLION UNDER LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL, ANALYSIS INDICATES. The Washington Post (9/21, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports that according to an analysis conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Cassidy-Graham ACA repeal "bill would slash federal spending on health coverage and cause most states to lose billions of dollars in such aid." Data show the legislation would reduce "federal spending on health insurance by an average of 11 percent between 2020 and 2026 in the 31 states, plus the District of Columbia, that have expanded their Medicaid programs under the law." In contrast, states which refused to expand Medicaid would see average increases of 12 percent. This means states which "kept their Medicaid programs small would receive an extra \$73 billion, while the federal money to the Medicaid expansion states would be cut by a total of \$180 billion."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/21, Edney, 4.52M) reports that overall federal spending on healthcare would drop by \$107 billion from 2020 to 2026. The article adds that the cuts seem "even larger when the bill's conversion of traditional Medicaid funding into a per-person allotment is factored in, rising to \$160 billion."

On its website, <u>ABC News</u> (9/21, McGraw, Parks, 2.83M) reports Graham's and Cassidy's bill "works by redistributing federal funds that would have been used for Medicaid expansion or insurance subsidies." The funds would be allocated as block grants, which Republicans argue "would give states enormous discretion on how to provide coverage." However, the article says the Kaiser analysis indicates the redistribution of funds would be unequal. The article says blue states such as New York could lose about 35 percent of its federal funding for healthcare, while Mississippi "could see a whopping 148 percent gain in federal funding under Graham-Cassidy."

Also covering the story are <u>The Hill</u> (9/21, Hellmann, Wexiel, 1.68M), <u>NPR</u> (9/21, kodjak, 2.4M) and the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, King, 465K).

The Secretary in the News:

CRITICISM OF HHS SECRETARY TOM PRICE'S USE OF PRIVATE JETS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL CONTINUES. The Washington Post (9/22, Davis, 10.38M) reports on how Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price developed his "practice...of turning to private, chartered jet travel" to attend "meetings around the country – often at a cost to taxpayers of thousands, or even tens of thousands of dollars per trip." The Post says Price's assistant secretary for public affairs Charmaine Yoest explained Price relies on private transportation to "mak[e]sure he is connected with the real American people" following an incident shortly after Price was sworn in to office during which a commercial flight delay caused him to miss an event where he was scheduled to speak. The Post adds, however, that "members of the House committees on energy and commerce and ways and means wrote to the inspector general of Price's agency saying the reported flights appear to violate federal rules and policies."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Estepa, 8.62M) reports Reps. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Richard Neal (D-MA), as well as Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Gary Peters (D-MI) are all calling for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General to investigate reports that Price chartered private jets when he could have taken commercial flights.



On its website, <u>ABC News</u> (9/21, Siegel, Kelsey, 2.83M) reports HHS-OIG is now reviewing the request for an investigation.

The Hill (9/21, Delk, 1.68M) reports that Price has flown on private jets at least 24 times while traveling on government business since taking office, and has "racked up the equivalent of \$300,000 in taxpayer-funded private flights since May."

Meanwhile, in a new report, Politico (9/21, Pradhan, Diamond, 3.6M) says Price "has taken at least 24 flights on private charter planes at taxpayers' expense since early May, according to people with knowledge of his travel plans and a review of HHS documents." Citing the frequency of the trips, Politico says "private travel has become the norm – rather than the exception – for the Georgia Republican during his tenure atop the federal health agency." While HHS officials "have said Price uses private jets only when commercial travel is not feasible," many of the flights "are between large cities with frequent, low-cost airline traffic."

Also covering the story are the AP (9/21, Danilova), the Washington Post (9/21, Balingit, 10.38M), MSNBC's All In (9/21, 1.84M) with Chris Hayes, the Washington Examiner (9/21, Correll, 465K), a second article in the Washington Examiner (9/21, Quinn, 465K), The Hill (9/21, Anapol, 1.68M), Politico (9/21, Emma, 3.6M), the New York Daily News (9/21, Silverstein, 3.61M), the Daily Caller (9/21, Phippen, 521K), and the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/21, Hartmann, 519K).

Opinion: Trump Administration Is Wasting Tax Dollars And Getting Away With It. Cheri Jacobus, the president of Capitol Strategies PR, writes in an opinion piece in USA Today (9/21, 8.62M) that Republicans and Democrats used to take "a strong stance against government officials being so blatantly cavalier about wasting our tax dollars on travel for personal trips or when more economical methods of transport are readily available for business," and recounts several examples. Jacobus argues that the Trump Administration, including Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, is not being held to the same standards that previous administrations were.

The New York Daily News (9/21, 3.61M) editorializes that "President Trump's cabinet secretaries are following the lead of their boss, who racks up huge travel bills as he jets to his golf courses and commingles personal profit and public duties like it's nobody's business." The editorial argues that Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price is following the example of President Trump.

<u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/21, 4.52M) editorializes, "Unless Trump draws bright lines around the use of government resources, and reprimands those who fail to steer clear of them, more – and more serious – abuses will" happen. The View also observes, "This isn't the first time Price has run into ethical problems."

TWO HOUSE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR EXTENDED OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MEDICARE ADVANTAGE, FEDERAL EXCHANGE PLANS TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY HURRICANES. The Hill (9/21, Greenwood, 1.68M) reports Reps. Richard Neal (D-MA) and Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) are calling for an extension of this year's open enrollment period for Medicare Advantage plans, as well as plans sold on the federal ACA exchange, in order to aid people affected by recent hurricanes. Neal and Pallone wrote a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, saying, "During this period of response and recovery, HHS should allow residents of affected states and territories additional leeway for both of the upcoming enrollment seasons." The article points out that the Trump Administration cut the enrollment period for health plans sold on the federal ACA exchange. The Washington Examiner (9/21, Leonard, 465K) also covers the story.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ASK PRICE, MERCK FOR UPDATES ON HOW THEY ARE ADDRESSING CYBERSECURITY THREATS IN HEALTHCARE. The Hill (9/21, Chalfant, 1.68M) reports Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Tim Murphy (R-PA), leading Republicans the House Energy and Commerce Committee, this week penned letters to Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price and Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier to state their concern for how cyber attacks could jeopardize healthcare infrastructure following "NotPetya" malware attacks that targeted Merck. The legislators requested HHS and the company provide them with information on how they have responded to the attack, writing, "The



revelation that it continues to affect Merck's operations adds to the growing list of concerns about the potential consequences of cyber threats to the health-care sector." They additionally cited concerns of situations in which national vaccine supplies could be compromised through the attacks, saying "the CDC reported that Merck would not be distributing certain formulations of the Hepatitis B vaccine."

ADMINISTRATION HINTS AT NEW MEDICARE POLICIES. <u>STAT</u> (9/21, Mershon, 43K) reports on Wednesday, Administration officials "hinted at several new pilot programs" that may result in Medicare beneficiaries being "on the hook for higher costs." They are "only hints" as "there are no formal rules" or "any clear timeline" being proposed. To date, Health and Human Services "has mostly made changes to Medicare by unwinding Obama-era initiatives," so these are the first "clear signals about the conservative policies that the Republican officials want to achieve in the Medicare and Medicaid programs." Secretary Price is said to favor "private contracting" under which physicians may "contract directly with beneficiaries to charge them more" than Medicare would pay. HHS may also seek to strengthen Medicare Advantage plans.

EDITORIAL: UTAH MUST PRESS FEDS FOR APPROVAL OF MEDICAID WAIVER TO FUND DRUG REHABILITATION INITIATIVE. The <u>Deseret (UT) News</u> (9/21, 381K) editorializes that Utah's Legislature must keep urging the Trump Administration "to expedite the approval of a Medicaid waiver that will" fund rehabilitation for drug addicts in the state. The initiative, "Operation Rio Grande," has a "\$67 million price tag" and "will fail without federal support," the editorial says. The board states that although HHS Secretary Tom Price in March "assured governors that the new administration would continue to approve waiver requests," the "approval process has stalled." The piece adds that "according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, every dollar devoted to rehabilitation results in up to \$7 saved on drug-related criminal justice costs."

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR RELEASES EMAIL FROM HHS IN REINSURANCE FIGHT. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/21, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports Gov. Mark Dayton (D) released Thursday an email from Jeff Wu, an acting director within the US Department of Health and Human Services, which assured state lawmakers that they would "get a pass-through equal to the amount the BHP funding went down," meaning that it would be able to compensate for loss of funding of its Basic Health Program (BHP). Republican state Sen. Michelle Benson had "e-mailed Wu for guidance on how to write legislation for the reinsurance program," which the state says will lower health insurance premiums by 20 percent if it gets HHS approval. HHS Secretary Tom Price "hasn't issued publicly a final determination on Minnesota's application." The Star Tribune also reports that Dayton disclosed another email from late 2016 where an Obama Administration official supports Minnesota's reinsurance plan.

HHS in the News:

NIH'S COLLINS TURNS TO LONG-UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE PRECISION MEDICINE. STAT (9/22, Facher, 43K) reports on the National Institutes of Health's "All of Us" project, which seeks to enroll over 1 million participants to sequence their DNA in hopes that the information, could "one day enable doctors to use increasingly precise diagnostic tests" and "shape treatments based on an individual's genetic characteristics." The study's lead author, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, has said that one of his goals is ensuring that a majority of participants come from historically-underrepresented communities in medical research, including African Americans and Latinos. To that end, the program is reaching out to long-mistreated communities using a "mobile engagement unit" – a truck – and community health centers have become a "centerpiece of the NIH's outreach strategy."

NIH RESEARCHERS PARTNER WITH SANOFI TO DEVELOP ANTIBODY THAT ATTACKS 99
PERCENT OF HIV STRAINS. BBC News (UK) (9/22, 1.61M) reports researchers in a collaborative study between the National Institutes of Health and pharmaceutical company Sanofi have developed an antibody that attacks 99 percent of HIV strains and leads to infection prevention in primates, results the International Aids Society heralded as an "exciting breakthrough." Researchers reported their findings in a study published in the journal Science, writing that their development combines three naturally-occurring



antibodies that attack and kill HIV in some patients into a powerful "tri-specific antibody." National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Dr. Anthony Fauci "said it was an intriguing approach," adding, "Combinations of antibodies that each bind to a distinct site on HIV may best overcome the defences of the virus in the effort to achieve effective antibody-based treatment and prevention."

PET SCAN TECHNIQUE MAY HELP IDENTIFY CTE IN LIVING PATIENTS. The Atlantic (9/21, Hruby, 1.64M) reports Mt. Sinai neurologist Sam Gandy has developed a PET scan method using a tracer to identify Tau deposits in the brain that could help identify patients with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The story says that an "expert panel commissioned by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, or NINDS, agreed on what distinguishes CTE from other diseases that also feature tau deposits: In CTE, the neuron-killing protein tangles build up around the wrinkled crevices along brain's surface, particularly at the deepest points."

NIH SEEKS TO EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO GENOMIC SUMMARY RESULTS. GenomeWeb (9/21) reports the US National Institutes of Health said Thursday "that it was soliciting comments on a planned update to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy." According to an NIH blog post, "This update would allow GSR from most studies to be provided via a public, rapid-access model. GSR from sensitive studies would remain in controlled-access." The post, "coauthored by Carrie Wolinetz, acting NIH chief of staff and associate director for science policy, and National Human Genome Research Institute Director Eric Green," added that "NIH has come to realize that many stakeholders believe that there is little risk when GSR are maintained through unrestricted access (i.e., in an open and public way)."

RESEARCHERS HALT GLIOMA GROWTH IN MICE BY INHIBITING NEUROLIGIN-3. Science Blog (9/21) reports that new research on mice indicates that "high-grade gliomas stop growing when deprived of" neuroligin-3, a "molecule naturally produced when brain cells fire." The <u>study</u>, published in Nature, was backed by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). NINDS Program Director Jane Fountain, Ph.D. is quoted as saying, "This study transforms our understanding of how neurons influence the growth of gliomas, and opens a new door for potential treatments."

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE TO HOLD OPIOID CRISIS HEARING ON OCTOBER 5. The Hill (9/21, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports the Senate Health Committee has scheduled an Oct. 5 hearing on the opioid epidemic. The hearing "will focus on the federal response to the crisis" and review anti-opioid efforts made under the 21st Century Cures Act and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb and several other Administration officials will testify at the hearing.

PUBLIC CITIZENS SUES FDA OVER BENZOCAINE IN BABY TEETHING MEDICINE. The Hill (9/21, Wheeler, 1.68M) reports that Public Citizen has filed a lawsuit against the Food and Drug Administration "for not responding to its petition to regulate an ingredient found in over-the-counter medicines for teething babies." The group claims benzocaine, "often found in products to treat teething pain, is linked to methemoglobinemia, a life-threatening blood disorder that impairs the body's ability to use oxygen."

OPINION: WINNERS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDAL ANNOUNCED. Joe Davidson writes in the Washington Post (9/22, 10.38M) "PowerPost" about this year's winners of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, which are awarded for "the selfless service and major accomplishments of particular federal employees." Tedd V. Ellerbrook of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention won the Career Achievement Medal for his "vital role in building, expanding and improving the U.S.-led program that provides medicine and assistance to 11 million people worldwide living with HIV and AIDS." Courtney Lias, Stayce Beck, and the Food and Drug Administration's artificial pancreas team won the Management Excellence Medal for their work to "expedite approval of a device 'that for the first time automates some of the complicated steps needed to keep blood sugar under control,' potentially transforming 'the lives of the 2.1 million Americans with Type 1 diabetes, who must constantly monitor their body's blood sugar level and correctly dose insulin for their very survival." Davidson recommends that the President attend the gala Wednesday.

FORMER SAMHSA DIRECTOR CALLS MOBILE APP A "GAME CHANGER" FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT. Fierce Healthcare (9/21, Sweeney, 146K) reports the FDA's approval of a mobile app for



substance abuse treatment is "a game changer in terms of how addiction treatment is rendered," according to public policy consultant Charles Curie, who served as director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) from 2001 to 2006. Curie said the Reset app, manufactured by Pear Therapeutics, "gives us the blueprint for addiction treatment to actually enter what I would call the 'medical mainstream,' instead of siloed off as another type of service system." Curie expects such apps to become commonplace and prescribed by medical providers along with medication.

Health Reform:

GRAHAM-CASSIDY WOULD SEND DECISIONS TO THE STATES. CNN (9/21, Krieg, 33.59M) reports Graham-Cassidy would allows state governments "to assume greater control of their health care systems," and "would effectively devolve the broad questions the federal government has been wrestling with" to state governments. The result may be "50 different health care programs."

Support For Graham-Cassidy Attributed To Republican Desire To Pass A Bill. Politico (9/21, Demko, 3.6M) reports the Graham-Cassidy bill in the US Senate, "has almost every divisive proposal that doomed previous bills" including, a cap on Medicaid, allowing "states to dismantle rules that prevent older, sicker people from being charged higher insurance premiums," and "it would almost certainly lead to millions more Americans lacking insurance." Politico adds "Republican senators [are] facing extreme pressure to finally pass something — anything — that scraps the health law and fulfills seven years of campaign promises." The bill is being considered, says Politico, because Republicans are "desperate...to scrap Obamacare and notch a legislative victory."

Axelrod Oppose Graham-Cassidy In Op-Ed. The Washington Examiner (9/21, Correll, 465K) reports on an op-ed by former adviser to President Obama, David Axelrod on CNN's website, in which he wrote that "he cried the night the Affordable Care Act was passed by the House as he remembered the struggles he and his wife faced as they learned their daughter had epilepsy when she was a baby." Axelrod argued that the act "provided the opportunity for health coverage to tens of millions who lacked it," and also "afforded new benefits and protections that make all Americans more secure." He urges the Senate to reject the Graham-Cassidy bill.

DSCC Targets Republican Senators With Online Ad Campaign About Graham-Cassidy. The Hill (9/21, Bowden, 1.68M) reports the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee "unveiled a new ad campaign Thursday targeting vulnerable GOP senators" who support the Graham-Cassidy bill. Senators in Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin are being targeted by online ads. The ad uses Jimmy Kimmel, who "ripped Cassidy in a scathing monologue on his show Tuesday night, accusing the Louisiana Republican of lying 'right to my face'" about his legislation. On Wednesday, "Cassidy fired back" arguing Kimmel "doesn't understand" the bill.

Pittsburgh Catholic Bishop Opposes Graham-Cassidy. The <u>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</u> (9/21, Smith, 516K) reports on Thursday Pittsburgh Catholic Bishop David Zubik said he has "serious concerns" about the Graham-Cassidy bill. He urged the Senate to consider the work of a "bipartisan group of senators" to "improve rather than replace Affordable Care Act." The <u>Pittsburgh Tribune-Review</u> (9/21, 236K) also reports on Zubik's statement.

Graham-Cassidy Takes Stronger Approach To End Medicaid Expansion. The Hill (9/21, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports Graham-Cassidy would prohibit "states from extending the expansion past 2019 even if they use their own money." The Hill adds, "Republican governors from states that expanded" Medicaid "are pushing back on the proposal." Yet some senators from those states defended the bill, saying, "Governors will have access to the funds that were used for Medicaid expansion and will be able to continue to cover that population if they so choose." Titus Says Graham-Cassidy Would Cost 243,000 Nevadans Health Insurance. Nevada Appeal (9/21, 48K) reports Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), citing the Center for American Progress, "said Thursday the GOP's proposed healthcare repeal would cost 243,000 Nevadans health insurance coverage."



Moore Spokesman Says He Only Wants Full Repeal Of ACA. The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/21, 521K) reports a spokesman for Republican Senate Candidate Roy Moore on Thursday said, "If Graham-Cassidy is anything less than a full repeal, Judge Moore will not vote for it."

Sandoval Opposes Graham-Cassidy. The Hill (9/21, Carter, 1.68M) reports Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval (R) criticized the bill saying it would "pit Nevadans against each other." He said, "Flexibility with reduced funding is a false choice." He added, "I will not pit seniors, children, families, the mentally ill, the critically ill, hospitals, care providers, or any other Nevadan against each other because of cuts to Nevada's healthcare delivery system proposed by the Graham-Cassidy amendment."

Poll Finds 24% Support Graham-Cassidy. The Washington Examiner (9/21, Phillips, 465K) reports a Public Policy Polling survey of 638 registered voters found "less than a quarter" (24%) support the Graham-Cassidy bill, while 50 percent disapprove, and 27 percent were not sure. In addition, 54 percent "approved" of the ACA, while 63 percent "want to keep what works and fix what doesn't," and 32 percent favor repeal and "start over." Public Policy Polling "a Democratic firm."

GOP LAWMAKERS URGING MCCAIN TO SUPPORT ACA REPEAL BILL. <u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/21, Edgerton, 4.52M) reports GOP lawmakers are working to convince Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to support the latest ACA repeal bill. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said, "'We're doing everything we know how to do' to get the votes to pass the bill that would convert the Affordable Care Act into block grants to states."

GOP'S RENEWED PUSH FOR ACA REPEAL REPORTEDLY DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO POLITICAL NECESSITY. The AP (9/21, Fram) reports that the GOP effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "has gotten a huge boost from one of Washington's perennial incentives: Political necessity." The article says data show Republican voters "are adamant that the party achieve its long-promised goal of dismantling that law." Some conservatives are warning that if GOP lawmakers fail to keep their promise, the base will punish them, for instance, by backing primary challengers in hopes of throwing current lawmakers out of office.

TRUMP USES TWITTER TO PUSH GOP HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL. The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/20, 4.49M) reports on President Trump's use of Twitter to push support for the Graham-Cassidy healthcare legislation ahead of a Senate deadline to pass the bill with a simple majority.

The New York Daily News (9/21, Silverstein, 3.61M) examines in detail Trump's tweet that said, "I would not sign Graham-Cassidy if it did not include coverage of pre-existing conditions. It does! A great Bill. Repeal & Replace." The Daily News said, "This perpetuates a half-true storyline about the bill being pushed by" Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) because the bill provides for coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, but "also allows states to opt of out Obamacare regulations that would prevent insurers from jacking up the prices for certain conditions." The bill also eliminates the individual mandate, which the article says "would inevitably lead to premiums shooting up for preexisting conditions customers." The article further discusses the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill, detailing each of his tweets along with their context, including responses to late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA).

PENCE URGES GOP TO SUPPORT "LAST BEST CHANCE" TO REPEAL ACA. Reuters (9/21, Heavey, Chiacu) reports that on Thursday, Vice President Mike Pence urged Republicans to support Senate Republicans' "last best chance" to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The article says Republicans in the Senate need 50 votes in order to pass the bill, and they must do so before September 30. After that, the GOP will no longer have the option to use reconciliation to repeal the healthcare law.

In a separate article, Reuters (9/21, Heavey, Abutaleb) reports on Pence's comments, and says because no Democrats will support the bill, Senate Republicans still need some more votes before they reach the goal of 50. The article says that earlier this week, the healthcare industry, as well as groups such as the American Medical Association and AARP, expressed opposition to the bill. Meanwhile, on Thursday, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the NAACP and other groups said they are



opposed to the measure.

GROUPS SEEK TO PRESSURE GOP SENATORS TO VOTE AGAINST ACA REPEAL BILL. The Wall Street Journal (9/21, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that critics of the latest GOP effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act are rushing to organize a campaign against the bill before the Senate votes on the matter next week. The article says that because there is so little time, various groups are attempting to put pressure on certain GOP senators they believe might be persuaded to vote against the measure. The piece adds that several groups, including the American Medical Association and America's Health Insurance Plans, have expressed opposition to the bill.

INSURERS SCRAMBLING TO KEEP UP WITH ACA DRAMA. The Hill (9/21, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that insurance companies were "blindsided" by the Senate Republicans' decision to abandon bipartisan talks and to forge ahead on repeal legislation, and that they "are scrambling to figure out how to move forward." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' deadline to finalize premium rates was Wednesday, and insurers have until September 27 to execute contracts with healthcare.gov to sell plans on the exchange. Senior manager with the consulting firm Avalere Health Chris Sloan explained, "If I was an insurer my biggest concern right now about 2018 – I've already submitted my rates, that process is basically done – would be that October or November or December or January, the administration stops paying the CSRs and I'm locked in, and I don't have an opportunity to adjust my rates, and I'm basically locked in for a year not receiving any of those funds."

SENATORS TO DEBATE SINGLE-PAYER VERSUS ACA REPEAL DURING CNN TOWN HALL. The Hill (9/21, Concha, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that on Monday, "CNN will host a town hall-style debate" during which "senators will face off over the new ObamaCare repeal bill." Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), who oppose the bill, "will debate its cosponsors, Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.)."

The Washington Post (9/21, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that some Senate aides questioned "whether Sanders had walked into a trap," adding that Sen. Graham "has frequently (and sarcastically) thanked the Vermont senator for giving him a contrast – repeal of the ACA, or inevitable health care 'socialism.'"

The Hill (9/21, Carter, 1.68M) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" that on Thursday, Tommy Vietor, former President Obama's National Security Council spokesman, warned that the event "is not 'the debate we want right now."

<u>CNN</u> (9/21, Diaz, 33.59M) reports that CNN anchor Jake Tapper and chief political correspondent Dana Bash will moderate the 90-minute live event from Washington.

The Washington Examiner (9/21, King, 465K) also covers the story.

SENS. GRAHAM, CASSIDY AIM TO WIN MURKOWSKI'S SUPPORT WITH SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ALASKA. The Hill (9/22, Bolton, 1.68M) reports Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "are going into overdrive" to win Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski's support for their bill to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Graham "told a meeting of conservative activists last week that special accommodations would have to be made in the bill for Alaska to win over Murkowski." Murkowski spokeswoman Karina Petersen "said her boss is still vetting the bill and studying data from the Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services and Department of Health and Human Services." One unnamed Republican aide said extra funding for Alaska "possibly" could be a problem. The Hill reports that "winning Murkowski won't guarantee passage either" as conservatives "have raised concerns or said they need more time to study the bill."

AMA, OTHER PHYSICIAN GROUPS STRONGLY CRITICIZE LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. The Atlantic (9/21, Hamblin, 1.64M) reports that major physician groups in the US are united in their opposition to the latest Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The article says the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, among others, have publicly criticized the bill. The



piece adds that it remains unclear precisely how many consumers would lose coverage if the bill became law, yet "is not difficult to see that the effects would be vast."

STATES UNLIKELY TO ESTABLISH HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS WITHIN TWO YEARS AS MANDATED BY NEW ACA REPEAL BILL. Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the New York Times (9/21, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The Upshot" blog that the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill would require states to build their own health systems, which would be a complex process. Sanger-Katz says after then-Gov. Mitt Romney's plan was adopted in Massachusetts in 2003, "it took four years before Romneycare was fully up and running," and the bill "would require every state in the country to make a similar soup-to-nuts evaluation of how they'd like their health care systems to work, to build such a system and be ready to open their doors in substantially less time – just over two years."

REPUBLICANS' CLAIM THAT ACA REPEAL BILL OFFERS PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS QUESTIONED. NBC Nightly News (9/21, story 7, 1:40, Holt, 16.61M) examines the "war of words" between "the sponsors of the bill and a late-night TV host" regarding the bill's coverage for preexisting conditions. The report concludes that the bill keeps it "illegal for insurance companies to deny sick people coverage," but under this bill, individual states could decide to charge sick people "dramatically higher premiums."

<u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/21, story 6, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) covers the same question and finds: "The bill does require states provide access to adequate and affordable healthcare insurance, but those terms are not defined or guaranteed. States could allow insurers to charge some people with preexisting conditions more."

On its website, <u>CNN Money</u> (9/21, Luhby, 3.59M) reports that President Trump and the GOP leadership "insist that the latest effort to repeal Obamacare will protect those with pre-existing conditions." In fact, Trump is quoted as saying on Wednesday, "I would not sign Graham-Cassidy if it did not include coverage of pre-existing conditions. It does! A great Bill. Repeal & Replace." The article says, however, that this is untrue. It adds that the Graham-Cassidy bill "does not provide the same sweeping protections of those with pre-existing conditions as Obamacare."

Meanwhile, The Hill (9/21, Savransky, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) "pushed back against statements by Senate Republicans and President Trump that the latest GOP effort to repeal and replace ObamaCare includes protections for pre-existing conditions." Murphy tweeted, "This is a lie. A horrible knowing fabrication. ... The bill is intentionally constructed to force states to drop this protection."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, Fang, 5.74M) also covers the story.

NEW ACA REPEAL BILL COULD INCLUDE SOME PROTECTIONS FOR ALASKA AND FOUR OTHER STATES. Politico (9/21, Haberkorn, 3.6M) reports that the latest ACA repeal bill "may protect Alaska and up to four other sparsely populated states from major cuts to Medicaid through 2026, a potential boon to the home of pivotal GOP swing vote Sen. Lisa Murkowski." The article says the proposal "allows a limited number of states to opt out of its new Medicaid financing system, which would give states set sums to run their programs and do away with the open-ended entitlement that exists today." The piece adds that Republicans are making every effort to gain Murkowski's support for this bill, given that she was one of the three GOP senators who voted against the previous measure in July. To date, she remains undecided.

The Washington Post (9/21, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports that the provision "exempts low-density states whose block grants either decrease or stay flat between 2020 and 2026 from the Medicaid per capita cap," which the Post says would exempt Alaska and Montana from "the funding cap that applies to all other states during that period."

The AP (9/21, Fram) reports that the bill also includes an increase in federal Medicaid funds for states with high American Indian populations, which would include Alaska.



And <u>CNBC</u> (9/21, 3.48M) reports that Alaska and Hawaii are the only two states that may keep the premium tax credits under the ACA, according to the Independent Journal Review.

The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/21, Donachie, 521K) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) told conservative strategists on September 19 that his bill would include "special carve outs for Alaska."

Modern Healthcare (9/21, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that the bill "would give the HHS Secretary Tom Price a lot of discretion to adjust funding to states like Alaska," however, such a so-called "Alaska Purchase" would counter Murkowski's comments in June when she said, "Let's just say that they do something that's so Alaska-specific just to quote, 'get me.' Then you have a nationwide system that doesn't work. That then comes crashing down and Alaska's not able to kind of keep it together on its own."

The <u>Boston Globe</u> (9/21, Jacobs, 969K) reports that President Trump is taking a "softer approach" in appealing to Murkowski on this healthcare bill: inviting her to lunch.

The Hill (9/21, Delk, 1.68M) reports that Vice President Pence urged Alaska residents to contact their state's senators during an interview on Anchorage radio.

Also covering this story is the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/21, Kilgore, 519K).

ARCHITECTS OF LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL DESCRIBED AS AN "UNLIKELY GROUP." Politico (9/21, Haberkorn, Bade, 3.6M) reports that this latest ACA repeal bill "rests on the unlikely collaboration of a veteran senator who can't stand health policy, a wonky freshman who has never passed major legislation and a former senator who lost his seat a decade ago." The article says Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum crafted this measure "in hopes of delivering on the party's seven-year-old campaign promise to repeal Obamacare." Initially, their proposal received little support, yet now, just before Senate Republicans' ability to use reconciliation to repeal the ACA expires at month's end, their "idea has gained enough momentum that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell committed to bringing the measure to the floor next week for a vote."

CHRIS MURPHY ACCUSES GOP OF ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE MURKOWSKI'S VOTE ON ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/21, Manchester, 1.68M) says that on Thursday, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) "slammed Republicans for reportedly offering to make changes to their ObamaCare repeal bill that would benefit Alaska to win support from Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)." Murphy tweeted, "The outright purchasing of votes. Everyone involved in this moral and intellectual monstrosity should be ashamed of themselves."

RYAN ENDORSED GRAHAM-CASSIDY BECAUSE HE CONSIDERS IT THE "BEST LAST CHANCE" TO REPEAL ACA. Roll Call (9/21, McPherson, 134K) reports that House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-WI) typically does not interfere in Senate affairs. He followed this trend in July when the Senate was attempting to pass its version of the House's ACA repeal bill. Now, however, "as the Senate prepares to bring another health care overhaul plan to the floor, the speaker has openly endorsed the bill and privately suggested he could usher it through the House." The article adds that Ryan explained his action by saying, "We are encouraged at the development of Graham-Cassidy. And I am encouraging every senator to vote for Graham-Cassidy because it is our best last chance to get repeal and replace done."

RON JOHNSON SAYS NEITHER THE ACA NOR THE LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL GUARANTEES COVERAGE. The Washington Times (9/21, Persons, 541K) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) was involved in "a heated exchange" about "whether those with pre-existing conditions would be covered under" the latest ACA repeal bill. He said on MSNBC, "Millions of people lost coverage" under "Obamacare. There are no guarantees other than the fact that premiums have already doubled. They continue to skyrocket. We'll have to continue to throw money at a failing program. It just simply doesn't work." Asked if reduced Medicaid funding would result in loss of coverage for some people, Johnson "said the entitlement program should not be a permanent solution for people, but a 'bridge' while



they look for a job that provides coverage."

JONI ERNST NOT SURE LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL HAS ENOUGH VOTES. The AP (9/21, Beaumont) reports that Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) "isn't sure the GOP's last-ditch effort to repeal Barack Obama's health care law has the votes to pass in the Republican-led Senate." She said on Thursday, "If it fails, it fails."

LIBERAL GROUP ENDORSES IOWA GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE WHO ADVOCATES SINGLE-PAYER. McClatchy (9/21, Roarty, 67K) reports that on Thursday, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee "endorsed Democratic lowa gubernatorial candidate Cathy Glasson, singling out the labor leader for her full-throated support for a 'Medicare for all' program favored by many progressive advocates." The article says Glasson is among "a handful of candidates seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination" in lowa, yet "liberal strategists hope that the PCCC's endorsement will send a signal to Democratic candidates across the country that supporting a single-payer health-care overhaul is key to earning the backing of the party's progressive base."

NONPROFIT LAUNCHES ADS URGING CALIFORNIA HOUSE GOP MEMBERS TO VOTE AGAINST ACA REPEAL BILL. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Mai-Duc, 4.49M) reports, "Five of California's House Republicans are being featured in new digital ads urging them to oppose" the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill. The spots, "which began running Thursday, highlight the bill's provisions, saying they would 'gut Medicaid' and get rid of affordable coverage for patients with preexisting conditions." The nonprofit group which launched the ads, "SoCal Health Care Coalition, was formed over the last few weeks and is 'supported by a diverse group of donors who believe healthcare is a critical issue for Californians,' according to spokesman Yusef Robb," who "declined to identify the group's major donors or who funded the ads." The spots target CA49 Rep. Darrell Issa (R); CA25 Rep. Steve Knight (R); CA48 Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R); CA39 Rep. Ed Royce (R); and CA45 Rep. Mimi Walters (R).

CALIFORNIA HOUSE GOP MEMBER EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Mai-Duc, 4.49M) reports that while California's House Republicans "have stayed mostly silent on the" GOP healthcare bill, physician James Veltmeyer (R) – who is challenging CA52 Rep. Scott Peters (D) – calls "it a 'major step in the right direction." Veltmeyer stated, "There is a lot of good stuff in this legislation." He "praised the proposal to use block grants to states to fund healthcare, saying it allows states 'the flexibility to run their own healthcare systems' and that the repeal of Obamacare's individual mandate would help create jobs."

FATE OF LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL MAY DEPEND ON COLLINS. MCCAIN AND MURKOWSKI.

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, Young, 5.74M) reports that continued access to healthcare for millions of Americans seems to depend on "a trio of Republican senators who split with their party and voted to block Obamacare repeal two months ago. Based on their own words then and now, a yes vote from any of them on the latest Senate GOP health care bill would be a stunning reversal." The article says that in July, Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), John McCain (R-AZ) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) "shocked their colleagues and President Donald Trump" by voting against Senate Republicans' ACA repeal proposal. Now, as the Senate prepares to vote on the latest ACA repeal bill next week, the fate of the healthcare law may rest with them once again.

JAMES COMER LAMENTS THE FACT THAT LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL LACKS CBO SCORE. On its website, CNN (9/21, Green, 33.59M) reports that Rep. James Comer (R-KY) "expressed concern Thursday about the prospect of the Senate voting on a health care bill without an assessment from the Congressional Budget Office." He is quoted as saying, "I certainly wish that the Senate would get a CBO score. I think it's a terrible thing when Congress votes on a major piece of legislation without a CBO score."

APPROACHING RECONCILIATION DEADLINE MAY CONVINCE GOP SENATORS TO VOTE FOR LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. On its website, <u>CNN</u> (9/21, Fox, 33.59M) reports that as far as the Graham-Cassidy bill is concerned, Republicans agree on one thing "right now: It's their last shot to repeal and replace Obamacare." The article says that could "be all the motivation they need to pass it." The



piece adds that GOP lawmakers are engaged in an "intense" effort to convince some key holdouts to vote for the measure.

QUESTIONABLE CLAIMS ABOUT INCREASED FUNDING FOR STATES NOT EXPECTED TO HELP SENATE GOP GARNER MORE SUPPORT FOR ACA REPEAL BILL. The Bangor (ME) Daily News (9/21, Shepherd, 162K) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), one of the architects of the latest ACA repeal bill, said "Maine and other states would see 'billions' more under it, but he hasn't shown his data and it contradicts outside analyses." The article says this contention is "unlikely to help the Graham-Cassidy bill...get over the finish line: Maine Sen. Susan Collins looks primed to vote against it, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul already opposes it and a third Republican no vote would kill the bid."

STATE MEDICAID DIRECTORS EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. The Washington Examiner (9/21, King, 465K) reports state Medicaid directors have voiced opposition to "a Republican Obamacare overhaul bill that would greatly restructure the federal-state healthcare program for the poor in their jurisdictions." On Thursday, the National Association of Medicaid Directors said the measure "would impose significant challenges to states, chiefly that they would shoulder too much risk under the legislation." The article says this "group is the latest stakeholder to oppose the measure, joining doctors, insurer and hospital groups skeptical of what is considered by Republicans their last chance to overhaul Obamacare."

The Hill (9/21, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that the letter also says, "Taken together, the per-capita caps and the envisioned block grant would constitute the largest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk from the federal government to the states in our country's history."

BOTH SIDES PRESSURING MURKOWSKI TO SUPPORT THEIR STANCE ON ACA REPEAL BILL. USA Today (9/21, Collins, 8.62M) reports that on Tuesday, a spot "urging Sen. Lisa Murkowski 'to stand strong and vote 'no' on health care repeal' started airing on televisions across Alaska." On that same day, Republican lawmakers and Vice President Mike Pence urged the GOP caucus to support the measure. The article says that as GOP senators attempt "once more to repeal and replace Obamacare before a Sept. 30 deadline, Murkowski – who voted against all three previous repeal attempts in the Senate this year – is facing pressure from all sides."

LACK OF CBO SCORE MEANS GOP SENATORS UNSURE ABOUT IMPACT OF LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. TIME (9/21, Jenkins, 5.85M) reports that GOP lawmakers in the Senate "have just days to pass a bill that would repeal major chunks of the Affordable Care Act, scale back federal spending on health care and dramatically change health insurance in the United States." Yet, "they don't know exactly how it will work." According to the article, that is because the measure "will not be scored by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office before the Senate faces an end-of-month deadline to pass it by a simple majority."

ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF AMERICANS WANT CONGRESS TO OVERHAUL ACA, POLL INDICATES. Roll Call (9/21, Rahman, 134K) reports a new poll conducted by the Economist/YouGov found that "about one-third of those surveyed believe legislation should expand and fundamentally change" the Affordable Care Act. Data show 40 percent of those surveyed "said they would support a single-payer system in which insurance comes from one government source financed by taxes, while 29 percent were opposed to that idea." Approximately "one-third of the respondents also indicated they'd like to see health care be 'completely rebuilt,'" while "64 percent said they want to see repeal of the law only when Congress has come up with a replacement plan." The article says 15 percent of respondents want the ACA to be repealed without being replaced.

OHIO NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS CLOSING DUE TO LOSS OF CMS FUNDS. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (9/21, 927K) reports the ACA Navigator program in Ohio will close because of cuts to its federal funding. Resolute Certified Navigators "suspended its Navigator operations earlier this month", while the Ohio Association of Foodbanks which also provides navigators said it will lay off its navigators and close its program because of cuts in CMS funding.



JIMMY KIMMEL ACCUSES SEN. CASSIDY OF NOT UNDERSTANDING HIS OWN BILL OR LYING. In continuing coverage, <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Jensen, 8.62M) reports that talk show host Jimmy Kimmel again criticized Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and the healthcare bill he is co-sponsoring. The article explains that earlier in the week, Kimmel accused Cassidy of lying about his position on healthcare, and then Cassidy responded by accusing Kimmel of not understanding the bill. <u>Politico</u> (9/21, Lima, 3.6M) reports Kimmel then responded saying that Cassidy "either doesn't understand his own bill or he lied to me."

The New York Times (9/21, Qiu, Victor, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "Fact Check" blog reviews the recent statements made by Kimmel and Cassidy and concludes that "Mr. Kimmel's Wednesday night monologue suggests he has a strong grasp on the proposal, though there are nits to pick," while some of Cassidy's statements are "misleading." The Huffington Post (9/21, Fang, 5.74M) reports that some healthcare experts have said that Kimmel's statements about the bill are accurate, while Cassidy has made statements about the bill that are misleading.

The New York Daily News (9/22, Feldman, 3.61M) reports Kimmel "said...that he'd prefer politicians do their own research into the newly proposed health care bill instead of making him do it," adding, "I'm not pretending to be an expert. I'm asking why people like you aren't listening to actual experts, like the American Medical Association."

Also covering the story are <u>The Hill</u> (9/21, Greenwood, 1.68M), <u>Politico</u> (9/21, Diamond, 3.6M), the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, Kasperowicz, 465K), another piece in the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/22, Correll, 465K), <u>Newsweek</u> (9/21, Nazaryan, 991K), the <u>New York Daily News</u> (9/21, Bitette, 3.61M), and the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, Visser, 5.74M).

Fox New Host Responds To Criticism From Jimmy Kimmel. The Hill (9/21, Savransky, 1.68M) reports Kimmel also criticized Fox News host Brian Kilmeade, and Kilmeade responded on his show "Fox & Friends." Kilmeade said on Thursday, "Last night, Jimmy Kimmel personally attacked me. This is what I would like to say on this: I hope your son gets better. I hope your son gets all the care he needs. I'm glad you're interested."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, Scarry, 465K) reports earlier in the week Kilmeade criticized Kimmel as being one of the "Hollywood elites" and suggested that Kimmel should interview the sponsors of the bill before criticizing it. Kimmel said that criticism was "particularly annoying," because Kilmeade acts like a "little creep...whenever I see him."

Commentators Weigh In On Debate Between Sen. Cassidy And Jimmy Kimmel. Jay Bookman writes in his column in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (9/21, 1.16M) that "it is remarkable that Kimmel, the college dropout and late-night TV host, knows a lot more about Cassidy's bill and what it would do than does Cassidy himself." For example, Bookman argues that "there is no universe in which Cassidy's" claim that his bill would increase the number of Americans with insurance "could be true," while experts agree with what Kimmel has said about the bill.

In an opinion piece, the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, 465K) contributor Jay Caruso writes that "the mainstream media" is treating Jimmy Kimmel "like the surgeon general in the wake of the latest Republican healthcare proposal." Caruso argues that all Kimmel knows about the healthcare system derives from his experience with his son who was born with a heart defect, and that he "is short on facts, and the media should know better."

JIMMY KIMMEL TAKES AIM AT PRESIDENT TRUMP ON ACA REPEAL. The Huffington Post (9/22, Visser, 5.74M) reports that late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel continued his "crusade" against the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill Thursday night, saying he accused President Trump of wanting to repeal the ACA "because it's got Obama's name on it." Kimmel added, "I guarantee he doesn't know anything about this Graham-Cassidy bill. He doesn't know the difference between Medicare and Medicaid." Kimmel also highlighted medical groups who have come out against the legislation, mentioning the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Heart Association.



OLDER PEOPLE MAY PAY \$16,000 MORE PER YEAR UNDER GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL, AARP SAYS. The Hill (9/21, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports older people may pay up to \$16,174 more per year for healthcare under the Graham-Cassidy bill, according to a study from the AARP. The report also said that the bill "threatens to make health care unaffordable and inaccessible for millions of older Americans."

STEPHEN COLBERT MOCKS SENATE REPUBLICANS' HEALTHCARE BILL. The Hill (9/21, Savransky, 1.68M) reports late-night host Stephen Colbert mocked Republicans during his monologue on Wednesday. Colbert said, "Republicans are trying to repeal and replace ObamaCare, again. This is beyond beating a dead horse."

OHIO COULD LOSE \$9 BILLION UNDER GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL, REPORT SAYS. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (9/21, Eaton, 927K) reports Ohio could lose \$9 billion in federal funding under the Graham-Cassidy bill, according to a report from Avalere Health. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) said on Tuesday that he was still evaluating how the bill would affect Ohio before deciding how to vote, but Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Ohio Gov. Jon Kasich (R-OH) have both voiced opposition to the bill.

New Jersey Could Lose Up To \$7.6 Billion In Federal Funding Under Graham-Cassidy, Reports Say. NJ Spotlight (9/21, Stainton) reports New Jersey could lose up to \$7.6 billion in federal funding under the Graham-Cassidy bill, according to several organizations that examined the bill. The reports also predicted that around a million state residents could lose insurance coverage over the next decade under the bill.

Arkansas Could Lose \$6 Billion Under Graham-Cassidy Bill, Report Says. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (9/21, Davis, 319K) reports, "Arkansas would lose \$6 billion in federal health care funding over seven years under" the Graham-Cassidy bill, according to a report from Avalere Health. Some healthcare groups in Arkansas have expressed concern about the potential loss of funding, which could cause many people to lose their health coverage.

North Dakota Could Lose \$1 Billion In Federal Funding Under Graham-Cassidy, Report Says. The AP (9/21) reports, "North Dakota could lose \$1 billion in federal funding" over the next seven years under the Graham-Cassidy bill, according to a report from Avalere Health.

ACTIVIST GROUPS PROTESTING GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL OUTSIDE OFFICES OF CALIFORNIA'S REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS. The Sacramento (CA) Bee (9/21, Hart, 349K) reports activist groups in California are protesting the Graham-Cassidy bill outside the offices of the state's Republican Representatives in Congress. The article points out that California stands to lose the most federal funding, \$28 billion, under the bill, according to a report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

NEW JERSEY COULD LOSE UP TO \$7.6 BILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER GRAHAM-CASSIDY, REPORTS SAY. NJ Spotlight (9/21, Stainton) reports New Jersey could lose up to \$7.6 billion in federal funding under the Graham-Cassidy bill, according to several organizations that examined the bill. The reports also predicted that around a million state residents could lose insurance coverage over the next decade under the bill.

ANTHEM FORECASTS INCREASED DRUG COSTS TO JUSTIFY 35 PERCENT RATE HIKE IN CALIFORNIA. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Terhune, 4.49M) reports that the nation's second-largest insurer, Anthem, predicts a 30 percent increase in prescription drug costs in California in order to justify rate increases of 35 percent, according to its recent filings with the California Department of Managed Care. The department "said it is scrutinizing Anthem's 'underlying medical costs and trends,'" and observers say the prediction "does seem high." Anthem explained that it has experienced increasing "utilization" as well as prices, and the rate hikes come as the company is withdrawing from several California counties' exchange markets. Two other large insurers, Blue Cross of California and Health Net, forecast drug cost increases of 16.4 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

SEN. CASSIDY USES GOP HEALTHCARE OVERHAUL TO RAISE CAMPAIGN MONEY. The New



Orleans Times-Picayune (9/21, Broach, 710K) reports that Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) is using his effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act as an opportunity to raise funds for his campaign. Cassidy's campaign committee sent an email Wednesday night seeking donations "to help my fight to repeal and replace." The Times-Picayune adds that among the 100 senators, Cassidy's account balance of \$1.7 million ranks 46th.

GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL OFFERS EXTRA MONEY FOR ALASKA, WISCONSIN. The AP (9/21, Fram) reports that some provisions "shoehorned into the Republican health care bill dangle extra money for Alaska and Wisconsin," home states of two senators with key votes Republicans need to pass the measure, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and one of the co-authors of the legislation, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI). The provisions "shield Alaska from some cuts" to Medicaid and increase Medicaid funds for states with high American Indian populations, according to analysts. The piece mentions that healthcare organizations such as the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and America's Health Insurance Plans all oppose the bill.

ALABAMA SENATE CANDIDATE MOORE MAY OPPOSE GOP HEALTHCARE BILL. The Hill (9/21, Kamisar, 1.68M) reports former Alabama judge Roy Moore, who is running for Senate, may oppose his party's latest effort to repeal and replace the ACA. A campaign spokesperson told MSNBC, "If Graham/Cassidy is anything less than a full repeal, Judge Moore will not vote for it." Many conservatives say that the bill is not a "full repeal" because it "shifts \$1 trillion...to the states." Moore's opponent, Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL), has not publicly declared his position on the bill.

GRAHAM-CASSIDY BILL WOULD COST RHODE ISLAND BILLIONS, LEAVE THOUSANDS UNINSURED. The Providence (RI) Business News (9/21, Borkowski, 31K) reports that Rhode Island Gov. Gina M. Raimondo (D) said the Republican Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill would cost Rhode Islanders more than \$20 billion over the next 20 years, and it would take insurance from 89,000 residents according to the Center for American Progress. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) said, "In the Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee, we began a series of hearings this month on bipartisan ideas that would build on the gains we have made under the Affordable Care Act. ... I hope Republicans will come back to the table because compromise and cooperation reap the best outcomes." The bipartisan effort to reform the ACA was "dashed" when Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) acknowledged the bill lacked the votes as Graham-Cassidy picked up steam.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT PREMIUMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA MAY RISE 31 PERCENT. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (9/21, Cope, 511K) reports that South Carolina's Insurance Department approved a 31.3 percent increase in insurance premiums for the 200,000 residents who get their insurance through the ACA's individual marketplace. BlueCross and BlueShield of South Carolina – the only insurer on the exchange – requested a 33.4 percent hike because premiums "did not cover claims paid, administrative costs, commissions, taxes and fees." South Carolina Department of Insurance Commissioner Ray Farmer attributed 20 percent of the 31 percent increase to the uncertainty surrounding a "cost sharing reduction" subsidy from the federal government.

The <u>Charleston (SC) Post and Courier</u> (9/21, Sausser, 269K) reports that a spokeswoman from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Patti Embry-Tautenhan said that most people who get their insurance on the exchange will only end up paying about \$10 more per month next year because of the significant discounts most members qualify for based on their income.

ALASKA HOSPITAL OFFICIAL DECLARES GOP HEALTHCARE PLAN "50 STATES OF CHAOS." The Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner (9/21, Granger, 37K) reports that President of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association Becky Hultberg says that her group is "not supportive" of the Graham-Cassidy legislation being considered in the US Senate. Hultberg said that the bill's block-grant program "makes the state responsible for setting up a health care program on its own, which is a very complex process" and that it "would be 50 states of chaos." The article mentions that the American Medical Association and American Hospital Association oppose the bill.

INSURERS, PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS, PATIENTS UNITE AGAINST GRAHAM-CASSIDY



HEALTHCARE BILL. ABC News (9/21, McGraw, Marshall, 2.83M) reports on its website that insurance companies, physicians, patients, hospitals, and other "patient-provider groups" are "rallying together against the Graham-Cassidy plan" because it could result in millions losing their access to healthcare and insurance coverage. ABC News mentions the American Medical Association and the American Health Insurance Programs – which includes insurers like Anthem and Humana – are teaming up with patient advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society and others. The American Medical Association said that the legislation breaks the Hippocratic Oath of "first do no harm."

ILLINOIS DEMOCRATS STAND OPPOSED TO GRAHAM-CASSIDY, REPUBLICANS SILENT. The Chicago Tribune (9/21, Skiba, 1.98M) reports that Illinois Democrats "expressed outrage" over Senate Republicans' latest effort to repeal the ACA, citing an analysis by Avalere finding that the state stands to lose \$8 billion in Medicaid dollars from 2020 through 2026. Republicans, on the other hand, have not commented on the bill or have not taken a position on it yet, although the Tribune reports that all seven House Republicans supported the last attempt to repeal the ACA. Sens. Dick Durbin (D) and Tammy Duckworth (D) are confirmed "no" votes.

SEN. ERNST "LEANING YES" ON GRAHAM-CASSIDY HEALTHCARE BILL. The Des Moines (IA) Register (9/21, Noble, 324K) reports that Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) said Thursday at a townhall that she is "leaning yes" on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare legislation. Ernst defended the measure when questioned on it by attendees of the townhall, including one woman who is HIV positive and gets her insurance through the insurance exchanges. The Register also reports that Iowa's other senator, Chuck Grassley (R), said Wednesday that he supports the legislation.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN SAYS MCCAIN "STARING DEATH IN THE FACE" BEFORE GRAHAM-CASSIDY VOTE. The <u>Arizona Republic</u> (9/21, Nowicki, 968K) reports that Democratic congressman Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA) said in a townhall that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) is "probably going to make good choices and he's not going to bend to political pressure" because "he's staring death in the face right now" while undergoing chemotherapy. McCain's office did not respond to the comment. The Republic reports that McCain has not "signaled how he will vote" on the Graham-Cassidy healthcare plan although he has pleaded for a return to "regular order." A Joint Legislative Budget Committee analysis says that Arizona will see a net loss of federal funding of \$1.7 billion in 2020 should the bill pass.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, Feldscher, 465K) reports that the senator's daughter, Meghan McCain, said the remark was a "disgusting and macabre statement." Executive Director of America Rising PAC Alexandra Smith, a conservative group, called the comment "both outrageous and offensive" and called for an apology. Cartwright later put out a statement apologizing to McCain and his family.

PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY COULD LOSE BILLIONS UNDER LATEST APA REPEAL. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/21, Wahlen, 1.71M) reports that Pennsylvania and New Jersey could lose billions of dollars in federal healthcare funding under the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill. Drexel University Professor Robert I. Field said, "It actually will penalize states that go out of their way to help more people." The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that Pennsylvania could lose \$12 billion in funding by 2026 as New Jersey could lose \$6.4 billion. Govs. Chris Christie (R-NJ) and Tom Wolf (D-PA) have both publicly opposed the measure.

PRO-LIFE ACTIVISTS PRESSURE SEN. PAUL TO SUPPORT GRAHAM-CASSIDY REPEAL BILL. The Washington Times (9/21, Howell, 541K) reports pro-life activists descended on Sen. Rand Paul's (R-KY) Kentucky office Thursday to pressure the senator to vote in favor of "last-ditch bill to repeal Obamacare and defund Planned Parenthood." Vice President Mike Pence also called on Paul Thursday to vote for the legislation, saying, "He's a good man, but he's wrong about this."

WOMEN'S ADVOCACY GROUP SENDS AIRPLANE MESSAGE TO SEN. COLLINS URGING "NO" VOTE ON ACA REPEAL. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (9/21, Thistle, 191K) reports that a national women's advocacy group, UltraViolet Action, commissioned a flight of a banner Thursday that said, "Collins, Don't back down protect our care." The small airplane was spotted over Portland, Maine.



SEN. GRAHAM SAYS, "WE ARE GOING TO VOTE" ON HEALTHCARE BILL. The <u>Charleston (SC) Post and Courier</u> (9/21, Lovegrove, 269K) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) insisted Thursday that the Senate "is going to vote" on the healthcare bill he crafted with Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA). Graham said that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has been "incredibly supportive," and added that the only stumbling block is getting a Congressional Budget Office score because Senate rules require a deficit impact of the bill.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Numerous outlets offer guidance on health reform.

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (9/22, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) column that Senate Republicans' latest ACA repeal bill, which will be brought to the floor next week, "is stunningly cruel. It's also incompetently drafted: The bill's sponsors clearly had no idea what they were doing when they put it together." Krugman also says the architects' "efforts to sell the bill involve obvious, blatant lies." He adds that the American Medical Association and the insurance industry have "warned that markets would be destabilized and millions would lose coverage" if the measure becomes law.

David Leonhardt writes in his column in the <u>New York Times</u> (9/21, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) is "trying to sell" his healthcare bill "by telling untruths." Leonhardt argues that "Cassidy is claiming that the bill would not ultimately deprive sick people of health insurance," but the bill "would free states to remove insurance protections for people with pre-existing conditions."

Philip Bump writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) that on Wednesday, President Trump tweeted his support for the latest ACA repeal bill, "arguing that it included 'coverage of pre-existing conditions.'" Bump says the bill aims "to give states the power to decide how health-care systems should be run," but the effect "is to give states the ability to allow insurers to increase the cost of coverage for those with preexisting conditions as long as the coverage is still 'adequate and affordable.'" This means "coverage will still be available for those with preexisting conditions, but insurers in states that receive a waiver from the government will be able to charge those people more."

Paul Kane writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) "PowerPost" that GOP lawmakers in the Senate "have made a calculated decision: Better to fail again trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act then not to try at all." He adds that "according to GOP senators and aides," during the August recess, "Republicans faced an unrelenting barrage of confrontations with some of their closest supporters, donors and friends. The moments occurred in small gatherings that proved even more meaningful than a caustic town hall – at meetings with local business executives, at church, at parks." Kane argues that this is what compelled Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to schedule a vote on the latest ACA repeal bill.

Amber Phillips writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) "The Fix" that Vice President Mike Pence's response to a question on "Fox & Friends" about whether governors operating under the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal bill would guarantee coverage for pre-existing conditions revealed that the bill in fact provides such a guarantee. Phillips criticizes Pence's response – in which he discussed Thomas Jefferson's statements on federalism and the states' roles in healthcare – as political "spin." She adds that the bill requires one to have "faith" that governors will "do the right thing for people."

Paige Winfield writes in the Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) "The Health 202" that it is safe to assume the latest ACA repeal bill "would mean fewer Americans have health coverage," but it remains to be seen how many people would be impacted. Some contend "it could be more than 22 million people. Others told me it could be fewer."

The Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) says in an editorial that "even Republicans know their new health-care bill is horrible," citing Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), "who candidly explained GOP thinking" in saying, "I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered. ... But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign." The Post says the GOP "is reaching for a new low, forcing through a cruel bill without leveling with Americans or even themselves about what is in it, merely because it has 'Obamacare repeal' stamped on it."



Eugene Robinson writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) that "motivated by the cynical aims of fulfilling a bumper-sticker campaign promise and lavishing tax cuts on the wealthy," the GOP's efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act "have undergone a process of devolution, with each new bill worse than the last." Robinson warns that the "human impact of the latest repeal-and-replace measure would be too tragic."

Catherine Rampell writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) that the Graham-Cassidy bill is "passing the buck" by giving each state a block grants to manage healthcare policy after making "an enormous across-the-board cut to federal health spending." Rampell goes on to argue that healthcare needs don't vary between states, but under current law waivers would enable states to experiment with different approaches.

Erik Wemple writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) that Jimmy Kimmel has become an advocate for affordable healthcare and an explainer akin to Ezra Klein. Wemple chronicles Kimmel's exchanges with Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who "resented Kimmel's policy intrusions." Kimmel is speaking out against the Graham-Cassidy bill that Wemple says "would mess with one-sixth of the U.S. economy, a bill that's being rushed through the process and that appears headed to a vote without a score from the Congressional Budget Office."

In the Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) "Plum Line" blog, contributor Greg Sargent writes that the Graham-Cassidy bill could "go down in spectacular fashion, creating an unexpectedly huge mess for Republicans on the way down." Sargent argues that if the Senate parliamentarian decides that certain key provisions can not be passed through reconciliation, then many undecided Republican Senators may decide to vote against it. Sargent mentions that Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) "is having intense discussions with Health and Human Services bureaucrats about what the bill...would really do."

Lawrence H. Summers, a professor at Harvard University, writes in an opinion piece in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) "Wonkblog" that the Graham-Cassidy bill presents an opportunity for a Republican Senator to cast "the decisive vote" and be "a hero." Summers argues that if there was ever "a moment for a courageous Republican to step up, this is it."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/21, 4.49M) editorializes that the Graham-Cassidy bill "suffers from the same fundamental problems as all of its predecessors." The editorial argues that the bill tries "to lower insurance costs for the healthy" at the expense of those "with preexisting conditions or potentially expensive risks."

In an opinion piece in the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/21, 4.49M), deputy editorial page editor Jon Healey writes that the Graham-Cassidy bill would "socialize more of the cost of health insurance." Healey argues that the bill would "use a metric megaload of federal tax dollars to do the same thing Democrats did through the ACA: make health insurance more available and affordable," or in other words, it "would socialize some of the cost of healthcare for millions of Americans, to the tune of more than \$1 trillion per decade."

In an editorial, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/21, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) says that Democratic critics who oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill are overwrought, and that Democrats' insistence that the process must be bipartisan flies in the face of liberals' own intransigence. The Journal takes issue with a report by Avalere saying that states will lose \$4 trillion in funding over 20 years, arguing that the study wrongly assumes no state block grants past 2026.

Dylan Scott writes in a Vox (9/21, 1.54M) piece that Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) could be "the decisive swing vote on Graham-Cassidy, the GOP's last hope to pass an Obamacare repeal bill," and given that Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Rand Paul (R-KY) are considered "'no' votes, Murkowski would be enough to sink the bill if she came out against it." Scott says it is obvious Senate GOP lawmakers are making every effort to convince Murkowski to vote for the bill, such as providing larger block grants for her state.



Dylan Scott writes in a Vox (9/21, 1.54M) piece that Senate Republicans are preparing to vote on another ACA repeal bill next week. He argues, "The underlying truth, the beating heart of Obamacare repeal that refuses to let it die, is: Republicans just want to pass a bill, any bill, to say they repealed Obamacare. Whatever standards they've set for their health care plan, whatever promises they made before, don't matter."

Ed Kilgore writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (9/21, 519K) that analysts are wondering why the latest ACA repeal is suddenly gaining support among Republicans. Kilgore argues, "The prevailing explanation is simply that Republicans have run out of time to redeem their incessantly repeated promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and this bill, for all its obvious flaws, is the only available measure that hasn't already been rejected by the Senate. And that may ultimately be the rationale for heaving this gummy mess across the finish line."

Ed Kilgore writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (9/21, 519K) that as Senate Republicans push for a "vote on the Graham-Cassidy 'block grant' legislation, the debate, such as it is, resembles an old-fashioned federal funding 'formula fight' between the several states." He adds that data indicate states which expanded Medicaid under the ACA "are going to lose to one extent or another, and states that Just Said No will be (relatively speaking) rewarded."

Ed Kilgore writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (9/15, 519K) that "this week, a bipartisan group of ten governors wrote a letter to Senate leaders opposing the revived Graham-Cassidy bill and endorsing bipartisan efforts to fix Obamacare." He argues that this "was a bit of an embarrassment since the whole rationale for Graham-Cassidy was that the states were willing and able to provide an alternative – or maybe 50 alternatives – to Obamacare." Kilgore adds that in response to this move, "the GOP rustled up 15 governors to sign a letter supporting the bill. Also not a surprise: All of them are Republicans."

Margaret Hartmann writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (9/21, 519K) that President Trump "has a long history of making claims about various Republican health-care bills that have nothing to do with reality." Hartmann says he "repeated this ritual for the latest GOP health bill on Wednesday night when he proclaimed that Graham-Cassidy doesn't threaten coverage for preexisting conditions, and he wouldn't support it if it did."

Former Rep. Henry Bonilla (R) of Texas writes in an op-ed for The Hill (9/21, 1.68M) that cuts to the 340B Discount Drug program proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will target rural hospitals and "will only create further barriers for patients' access to care, without addressing the real problem of exorbitant drug prices." Bonilla warns that if CMS reduces the payment rate for the 340B program, "there is no question rural hospitals in Texas will become even more desperate, or close altogether."

Joe Peyronnin writes for the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, 5.74M) that Graham-Cassidy bill "will leave untold millions of Americans without health coverage." Peyronnin criticizes the bill's provisions, which include rolling back ACA mandates and protections, and argues that "the best alternative is a bipartisan approach to fix the problems that exist with Obamacare," an "anathema for Republicans who are largely focused on getting entitlement spending under control." Peyronnin writes Graham-Cassidy "is all about fulfilling a political promise."

The <u>Cleveland Plain Dealer</u> (9/21, 927K) editorializes that Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) must take a position on the Graham-Cassidy bill, under which "Ohio would be one of the big losers." The Plain Dealer urges Portman to oppose the bill, adding that "only someone who puts party loyalty over loyalty to the Ohioans who elected him would agree to this."

Political analyst Earl Ofari Hutchinson writes for the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, 5.74M) that the Graham-Cassidy bill is a "diabolical" attempt to "wipe the slate clean of the Affordable Care Act." The "most diabolical part of this is that funding for children's medical needs would shrink over the next decade," and "the elderly and disabled wouldn't fare much better."



The Waco (TX) Tribune-Herald (9/21, 170K) editorializes that "lawmakers say they don't fully understand what Trumpcare redux actually includes, but most Republicans are nonetheless lining up to vote for it." The Tribune Herald argues that "there may well be some good reasons for embracing the Graham-Cassidy bill, but without full hearings for it to be as probed and debated as the ACA was."

Political commentator Alice Stewart writes for <u>CNN International</u> (9/21, 598K) that Graham-Cassidy bill will deliver on seven years of GOP campaign promises. "To continue to kick the can down the road ... would be a complete abdication of duty" by lawmakers. Stewart writes that the "most promising feature" of the bill "is that is turns that premise around and gives control back to state governors."

EJ Montini writes for the <u>Arizona Republic</u> (9/21, 968K) that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) should heed his own advice and vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill, saying, "No one could convince him to do the right thing better than he could."

In an editorial, the <u>Aurora (CO) Sentinel</u> (9/21, 61K) says "that every Republican plan to repeal Obamacare would result in higher costs and less service for individuals." The Graham-Cassidy bill is "worse for Aurora residents and all of Colorado," the Sentinel says, citing a "study released this week [that] shows that this newest repeal measure would cause an overall reduction in federal health insurance funding of \$215 billion through 2026."

The <u>Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal</u> (9/21, 111K) editorializes against the Graham-Cassidy bill, writing, "there's no reason to support a bill that will likely leave tens of millions uninsured." The forthcoming vote on the bill is "an opportunity for Sen. Jerry Moran to assert his independence" by rejecting it. The editorial says that Moran "has repeatedly stated that maintaining [the ACA's] protections is one of his top priorities for any health reform proposal."

In an editorial, the <u>South Florida Sun Sentinel</u> (9/20, 530K) urges Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) not to back the Graham-Cassidy bill. The Sun Sentinel argues that with this bill, "keeping a bad promise to right-wing Republican voters is more important than protecting the health of a far larger majority of Americans."

Visante CEO James A. Jorgenson writes for the <u>Salt Lake (UT) Tribune</u> (9/22, 337K) that the Graham-Cassidy bill should undergo regular order. "Something as important as health care deserves a much more measured approach and careful thought than the current process, and it must be a bi-partisan approach that works for all."

Naomi Lopez Bauman writes for Modern Healthcare (9/21, Subscription Publication, 238K) that Jimmy Kimmel has mistakenly conflating the ACA's intentions with "unattained outcomes." While President Obama "repeatedly promised that the average family would see premiums drop by an average of \$2,500 per year, they have actually doubled," according to data from online insurance broker ehealth. The Graham-Cassidy bill "may not offer much relief to the many shortcomings facing our healthcare system," but the status quo is untenable.

Stephanie Grace writes in her column for the <u>Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate</u> (9/21, 72K) that the Graham-Cassidy bill aims to "drastically redistribute the money now being spent on expansion and other elements of the ACA – minus some deep cuts compared to current projected spending – as a way to provide equity to these states, which tend to be run by fellow Republicans." In addition to a "cynical" argument about state equity, "Cassidy is also pushing the line that the bill wouldn't reduce coverage" and that it would vaguely "provide equivalent protections."

President of the Iowa Hospital Association Kirk Norris writes in the <u>Des Moines (IA) Register</u> (9/21, 324K) that it was "surprising" that Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) said there are many reasons to vote against the Graham-Cassidy bill, but added, "Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign" and that's "as much of a reason as the substance of the bill." Grassley "publicly championed greater equity in Medicare payments," but now is "on the verge of endorsing the single most inequitable move in the history of Medicaid at the expense of everyday lowans" since reports indicate that lowa could lose over \$1 billion in federal funding by 2026. Norris concludes,



"lowa's hospitals urge all lowans to contact our senators and tell them to vote 'NO' on the Graham-Cassidy bill."

Curtis Ellis, a senior policy advisor for America First Policies, writes in an opinion piece in the Washington Examiner (9/21, 465K) that the Affordable Care Act "has made a mess of our healthcare system." Ellis argues that the Graham-Cassidy bill would "let states take control of health care regulation," by giving "states the power and flexibility to design their own healthcare systems."

In an opinion piece, the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, 465K) commentator Tom Rogan writes that former President Barack Obama "cannot see how Republican legislation might be better than his own. But it would be better." Rogan argues that the Graham-Cassidy bill would improve Medicaid and reduce the "human suffering" that has been caused by the Affordable Care Act.

Jillian McLeod-Tardiff, a patient advocate for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England in Maine, writes in an opinion piece in the Bangor (ME) Daily News (9/21, 162K) that Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) should oppose the Graham-Cassidy bill just as she opposed previous Republican bills that would have repealed the Affordable Care Act. McLeod-Tardiff argues that the Graham-Cassidy bill is "worse than all the previous versions," including a provision that would block Medicaid patients from going to Planned Parenthood. McLeod-Tardiff mentions that the American Medical Association has said that the provision would violate the organization's "policy on patients' freedom to choose their providers and physicians' freedom to practice in the setting of their choice."

The York (PA) Dispatch (9/21, 42K) editorializes that "Republican efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act are back from the dead." The editorial argues that the Graham-Cassidy bill "would likely cut tens of millions from the rolls of the insured, as analysts estimate states would lose some \$215 billion in federal subsidies."

In an opinion piece, Forbes (9/21, 5.11M) contributor Arlene Weintraub writes that the Graham-Cassidy bill would be particularly harmful to veterans by increasing the percentage of veterans without health insurance from 5.8% to 9.1%, according to a study from the RAND Corporation. Weintraub argues that many of the veterans who would lose their health insurance would be sick and elderly, which could further burden the struggling VA healthcare system.

In an opinion piece in the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, 5.74M), contributor Jesse Mechanic writes that the Graham-Cassidy bill demonstrates that Republicans never wanted to fix the Affordable Care Act, but rather delete it. Mechanic argues that President Trump's claims that he would ensure everybody had health insurance "was clearly just a talking point." Mechanic also says that the bill would give the Secretary of Health and Human Services broad discretion to define certain key terms like "affordable" and "adequate."

Richard Parker, an author, writes in an opinion piece in the <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (9/21, 984K) that the Graham-Cassidy bill suggests that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) "probably don't know what they're doing," or "they're lying." Parker argues that under the bill, more people would lose their health insurance in Texas than in any other state, according to an analysis conducted by the Center for American Progress.

In an opinion piece in the <u>Washington Times</u> (9/21, 541K), contributor Cheryl K. Chumley writes that former President Barack Obama "can't stop the campaigning." Chumley argues that Obama labeled Republicans "basically people haters" for trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Constance Scharff, PhD, an author, writes in an opinion piece in the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, 5.74M) that the Graham-Cassidy bill demonstrates "that the GOP has no interest in genuine healthcare reform that would provide higher quality or less expensive health services to Americans." Scharff argues that the bill "would decimate the quality of healthcare for millions of Americans, raise premiums, and make access to health insurance impossible for at least twenty million citizens."



Kyle Wingfield writes in his column in the <u>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u> (9/21, 1.16M) that the Graham-Cassidy bill "doesn't actually repeal" the Affordable Care Act, but rather "cements much of the law in place, in ways Democrats might appreciate if they weren't busy peddling fictions about the wonders and feasibility of single-payer health care." Wingfield argues that many Americans are confused and misinformed about healthcare, which can help explain why people support such different ideas.

Opioid News:

CVS WILL FOLLOW CDC'S OPIOID PRESCRIPTION GUIDELINES IN NEW EFFORT TO ADDRESS ADDICTION EPIDEMIC. The NBC Nightly News (9/21, story 9, 1:55, Holt, 16.61M) reported CVS said Thursday it will place new restrictions on opioid prescriptions and will limit patients seeking opioids for short-term pain management to a seven-day supply. The company "also plans to boost funding for addiction counseling and safe opioid disposal programs." CVS Chief Medical Officer Troyen Brennan is shown saying, "With the fewer people that become addicted, they'll lead better lives. We'll eliminate human suffering."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/21, Kelly, 541K) reports that new measures to combat the opioid crisis includes "expanding the responsibility of pharmacists" to detect "dangerous prescribing practices." Under the new protocols, CVS pharmacists are encouraged "to adhere to the national guidelines for prescribing opioids, outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," the Times says.

Bruce Japsen writes for Forbes (9/21, 5.11M) that CVS "said it will roll out an 'enhanced opioid utilization management approach for all commercial, health plan, employer and Medicaid clients as of February 1, 2018 unless the client chooses to opt out." The article quotes CVS Health chief medical officer Dr. Troyen Brennan as saying, "Employing principles sanctioned by the CDC is clearly necessary and prudent."

STAT (9/21, Joseph, 43K) reports that CVS officials wrote in a Health Affairs blog post that "the CDC Guideline should become the default approach to prescribing opiates." The article mentions that the American Medical Association called Express Scripts' recent adoption of opioid restrictions a "blunt, one-size-fits-all approach" that undermined physicians' ability to make case-by-case treatment decisions.

On its website, <u>NBC News</u> (9/21, 3.46M) noted that the move by CVS "comes on the heels of a special publication released by the National Academy of Medicine, 'First, Do No Harm,' which calls on the leadership and action of doctors to help reverse the 'course of preventable harm and suffering from prescription opioids."

KRISTOF: HOW PORTUGAL MAY HAVE WON A WAR ON DRUGS. Nicholas Kristof writes the New York Times (9/22, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) about contrasting approaches to the problem of illicit drug abuse taken by the US and Portugal. Portugal decriminalized all drugs, including heroin and cocaine, in 2001 to focus on providing healthcare, and its Health Ministry now estimates that heroin use is down to 25,000 from 100,000 when the policy began. Kristof concludes, "The lesson that Portugal offers the world is that while we can't eradicate heroin, it's possible to save the lives of drug users – if we're willing to treat them not as criminals but as sick, suffering human beings who need helping hands, not handcuffs."

WOMEN OPIOID ADDICTS ARE OFTEN VICTIMIZED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE. In "Shots," NPR (9/21, Bebinger, 2.4M) reports on the problem of sexual violence against women who are addicted to opioids. One female opioid addict interviewed for the story says sexual assaults are so pervasive against female addicts that it "almost become normalized, and that's messed up." According to NPR, the women do not usually seek police assistance out of fear they will be charged with drug crimes. NPR adds that Dr. Jessie Gaeta, medical director at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, believes sexual assault screenings for overdose patients should become standard, citing "unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted illness, [and] even physical injuries."



SUPPORTERS ADVOCATE FOR MORE RECOVERY SCHOOLS AMID OPIOID CRISIS. The Washington Times (9/21, Kelly, 541K) reports supporters of recovery schools – educational institutions "specifically tailored to keep at-risk youths sober and drug-free" – increasingly are calling for more of such schools amid the nation's opioid epidemic. Advocates "argue that intervention" at a young age "is critical to help head off larger substance abuse problems down the line." The Times highlights the efforts of John Edmonds, who attended a recovery school as a teenager and founded the Association for Recovery & Education of Greater Washington, which is seeking to raise money for a school based in DC and potentially in Maryland and Virginia as well.

WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL BELIEVES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTIALLY TO BLAME FOR OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (9/21, Zuckerman, 22K) reports West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, speaking on Thursday at an event hosted by the American Conservative Union Foundation and the Cardinal Institute, put "some of the blame for the opioid epidemic on the federal government," saying "you actually have to include the government as part of the problem...because it has unintentionally put policies in place to drive too many pills into the market place." Morrisey said during his speech that his office is addressing changes to incentive systems through which patients' responses to surveys could jeopardize how much reimbursement funding they receive from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Healthcare News:

US SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE ON PATIENT RECORD DISCLOSURES FOR MEDICAL MALPRACTICE SUITS. The <u>Daytona Beach (FL) News-Journal</u> (9/21, Saunders, 229K) reports the US Supreme Court on Monday will consider a Florida case focused on whether hospitals are required to disclose records to plaintiffs during medical malpractice lawsuits. Southern Baptist Hospital of Florida filed a petition in May asking the Court to review its case after the Florida Supreme Court ruled that the records it wanted to keep private should be disclosed based on a 2004 state constitutional amendment

CALIFORNIA'S BILL FOR SINGLE-PAYER MAY GET A BOOST FROM NATIONAL CONVERSATION. The Los Angeles Times (9/22, 4.49M) reports on the effects of Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) "Medicare-for-all" proposal on California's SB 562, which would establish a state-run single-payer healthcare system. The Times says that Sanders' bill is an "almost unimaginable scenario" with Republicans in Congress and the White House, whereas in California it is "theoretically less futile with Democrats dominating the state Capitol." The piece identifies California officials who believe that the national "narrative" may help the initiative, and those who would not support a single-payer policy in the state.

Human Services News:

STATE DEPARTMENT FORMALLY RECOMMENDS CAPPING REFUGEE ADMISSIONS AT 50,000, ANONYMOUS OFFICIALS SAY. The AP (9/21, Colvin) reports that the State Department, which supervises the US refugee program, "has formally recommended that the number" of refugees allowed into the United States for the next budget year "be kept at 50,000," according to anonymous Trump Administration officials. The AP says President Trump set a "50,000 maximum-entry mark...earlier this year as part of his travel ban executive orders," which is "the lowest in modern American history." According to the article, sources said the State Department would have set the limit higher, but believed 50,000 was the largest number Trump would find agreeable. The AP adds that former President Barack Obama wanted to raise the immigration "number to 110,000 in 2017."

SESSIONS SAYS UNACCOMPANIED MINORS ENTERING US ARE OFTEN "WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING." Politico (9/21, Dezenski, 3.6M) reports that in a speech to local and national law enforcement in Boston on Thursday, Attorney General Sessions "warn[ed] that many unaccompanied minors trying to enter the US across its southern border are gang members whom the country should view as 'wolves in sheep's clothing." Sessions said that transnational gangs like MS-13 use the "unaccompanied refugee minors' program" as "a means by which to recruit new members." Sessions said his department is working with DHS and HHS to "examine the unaccompanied minors issue and the



exploitation of this program by the gang members who come to this country as wolves in sheep's clothing."

Food & Import Safety:

DEATH WISH COFFEE RECALLS ITS NITRO COLD BREW OVER RISK OF BOTULIN TOXIN. The Washington Post (9/22, Wong, 10.38M) reports that Death Wish Coffee Co. announced a recall Tuesday of its nitrogen-infused cold brew coffee over a risk that it could contain the deadly toxin botulin. The company said that there have been no illnesses reported, but a tester of the product raised the issue. Botulinum spores can be found on most fresh food surfaces and are usually harmless since they only grow in the absence of air. However, because of the reduced oxygen level of this product, the bacteria spores could multiply. The CDC says botulism is "a rare but serious illness caused by a toxin that attacks the body's nerves and causes difficulty breathing, muscle paralysis, and even death."

Reuters (9/21) reports Death Wish Coffee's founder said the recall was precautionary and that the company had passed all FDA and state inspections.

Nutrition & Obesity:

STUDY SUGGESTS DRINKING ONE FEWER SODA PER WEEK CAN LIMIT WEIGHT GAIN OVER TWO YEARS. TIME (9/21, MacMillan, 5.85M) reports a study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that drinking even one fewer cans of soda per week can result in one fewer pound gained over the course of two years. According to TIME, "On the other hand, those who added about a can of soda to per week to their diet gained 0.66 lb more than those who didn't alter their soda habits. Making it a daily ritual was linked to even more weight gain." The authors were also hesitant to recommend diet drinks, writing, "although there is evidence to support that sugar-free soda consumption might result in weight loss by limiting energy intake, some studies have suggested that intake of noncaloric sweetener could result in metabolic abnormalities and weight gain."

Medicare:

SOUTHWEST MEDICAL ASSOCIATES REVERSES DECISION TO END CARE FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICARE. The <u>Las Vegas Review-Journal</u> (9/21, Harasim, 458K) reports Southwest Medical Associates on Thursday said it will reverse its earlier "decision to stop providing care next year to about 7,000 Southern Nevada seniors with traditional Medicare plans." SMA said that it had received "complaints from patients who said they would be forced to find new doctors."

Medicaid & CHIP:

FUTURE OF COVERKIDS UNCERTAIN AS CHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES. The <u>Tennessean</u> (9/21, Fletcher, 499K) reports that the future of CoverKids, Tennessee's implementation of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), is up in the air with CHIP's funding set to end on Sept. 30. The article says CHIP has yet to be officially renewed despite "bipartisan support and some movement in Congress to reapprove it." CoverKids provides health coverage for 105,000 children in Tennessee.

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS DELAYED BY COLORADO'S NEW SYSTEM. The Denver Post (9/21, Brown, 817K) reports Colorado Hospitals "are waiting on millions of dollars in reimbursements" due to problems with state Medicaid department's "new technology system." The delay is sufficiently long that physicians are seeking to be reimbursed for the "interest they've incurred taking out loans to keep their practices open." The system went online March 1, "resulting in havoc for hundreds of providers whose claims were rejected for coding errors and 'validation' issues."

RENACCI SAYS MEDICAID EXPANSION NOT HELPING OHIO COMBAT OPIOID ADDICTION. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/21, Schladen, 456K) reports Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH) on Thursday said



Medicaid is not reducing opioid addiction. He said, "We're the No. 1 state in opioid addiction." He added, "Why are the 19 states that didn't expand Medicaid doing better than us?" Renacci is a candidate for governor.

PENNSYLVANIA HOLDING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN NEW MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PROGRAM. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/21, Rotstein, 516K) reports Pennsylvania has "scheduled public information meetings at 22 sites from Oct. 11 to Nov. 3" to explain the "new Community HealthChoices program starting Jan. 1." Pennsylvania's Office of Long-Term Living "is also mailing materials" to explain the program, which is a state "initiative bringing managed care to how people select and receive Medicaid-funded services such as home assistance, adult day care and nursing home stays."

SUIT FILED AGAINST IOWA MEDICAID OVER BAN ON GENDER TRANSITION SERVICES. The <u>Des Moines (IA) Register</u> (9/21, 324K) reports, "Two transgender women are suing the lowa Department of Human Services" arguing that its "ban on Medicaid coverage for transition-related medical services such as sex-reassignment surgery is illegal and unconstitutional." The claim "the state's Medicaid ban violates patients' rights to equal protection under the law."

Health & Medical News:

FLINT'S LEAD-CONTAMINATED WATER CAUSED RISE IN FETAL DEATH RATES, STUDY FINDS.

The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/21, story 7, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M) reported a new medical research study found that contaminated water in Flint, Michigan has contributed to "severe health problems." According to the study, "fetal death rates increased by 58 percent in Flint after the city switched its water source in April 2014." Daniel Grossman, a co-author of the study, said, "Costs of this water change were not limited simply to affects on children and adults, but also lead to large decreases in fertility rates, which could have long-lasting effects on the city itself."

Christopher Ingraham writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) "Wonkblog" that Flint suffered "a 'horrifying large' increase in fetal deaths and miscarriages" after its 2014 change to lead-contaminated water. Comparing Flint to neighboring cities, the paper's authors found "a substantial decrease in fertility rates in Flint for births conceived around October 2013, which persisted through the end of 2015." The paper concludes that "between 198 and 276 more children would have been born had Flint not enacted the switch in water."

HEARING WILL DETERMINE IF MICHIGAN OFFICIAL FACES TRIAL IN FLINT WATER SCANDAL.

The AP (9/21) reports that a hearing scheduled for Thursday will determine if Nick Lyon, the head of Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services, will go "to trial on two charges, including involuntary manslaughter," for his role in the Flint water supply scandal. Lyon is accused of failing to properly warn the public "about a Legionnaires' outbreak in the Flint area in 2014-15." According to the AP, the first witness will testify that he began inquiring about bacteria in the city's water a year prior to the state's public Legionnaires' announcement.

SAN DIEGO WAS WARNED ABOUT LACK OF BATHROOMS LONG BEFORE HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK, RECORDS SHOW. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Dehaven, 4.49M) reports that San Diego officials had plenty of notice that the city's "lack of public restrooms downtown" could lead to health issues, such as the current hepatitis A outbreak. The Times says that "since 2000, four grand jury reports" have stressed the dangers "of human waste on [San Diego's] city streets" and insufficient available toilets for the homeless, according to "a review of public records" by the San Diego Union-Tribune. One of the reports, from 2010, "explicitly warned that an outbreak of illness caused by such unsanitary conditions 'could result in liability to the city."

FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR'S SMART BREAST PUMP STRUGGLES TO DRAW INTEREST FROM MOSTLY MALE VENTURE CAPITALISTS. <u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/21, Huet, 4.52M) reports that Janica Alvarez has developed an FDA-approved "smart breast pump" with "a dedicated fan base among mothers," but is struggling to generate interest from the "male-dominated venture capitalist industry." The



article says "Alvarez's experience illustrates how getting venture funding can be even harder when your product isn't one men use."

MIDDLE-AGED MEN WHO PLAY A SPORT ARE MORE LIKELY TO STAY ACTIVE LATER IN LIFE, STUDY SUGGESTS. TIME (9/21, MacMillan, 5.85M) reports that men who participate in a sport are more likely to remain active as they get older, according to a recent study. The research "found that men who were physically active in their 40s and 50s were nearly three times as likely to be active in later decades," and playing a sport in middle age "best predicted how active people would be in their older years," TIME says.

INACCESSIBILITY, ANTI-VACCINATION PARENTS THE LARGEST IMPEDIMENTS TO GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION, OFFICIALS SUGGEST. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Simmons, 4.49M) reports that "two challenges" impede the worldwide eradication of polio, "according to international health officials and children's advocates." The first challenge is accessing difficult-to-reach areas of certain countries with polio, according to Reza Hossaini, the United Nations Children's Fund's director of polio eradication. The second challenge, the Times says, "is the continued resistance of some parents to have their children vaccinated." The article adds that "there were only 37 reported cases of polio in 2016, according to the [World Health Organization]."

FDA WARNS INCORRECT DOSING OF LIVER DRUG COULD BE FATAL. Reuters (9/21, Mishra) reports that the Food and Drug Administration warned that Intercept Pharmaceuticals' Ocaliva (obeticholic acid) "was being incorrectly dosed in some patients with a rare liver disease, increasing the risk of liver injury and death." According to the FDA, 19 deaths and 11 cases of "serious liver injury" were linked to the drug. Some patients "were receiving higher doses of the drug, particularly due to a higher frequency of dosing than recommended in the label."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/21, Langreth, 4.52M) reports that that "the deaths could lead to restrictions on how Ocaliva is prescribed and additional warnings on the drug's label, which doesn't currently list death as a risk."

MANY DRUGMAKERS FAIL TO CONDUCT REQUIRED POST-MARKETING STUDIES, ANALYSIS FINDS. Reuters (9/21, Emery) reports that a new analysis published in the New England Journal of Medicine finds that in many cases, pharmaceutical companies are failing to conduct post-marketing studies "to study possible side effects and alternative doses for medicines." Researchers "looked at federal records and found that among the 614 studies mandated in 2009 and 2010, 20 percent were never started and 9 percent have been delayed." In a response published in the Journal, the FDA said that by its count, 88 percent of all postmarketing requirements, not just those from 2009 and 2010, "were progressing according to their original schedules" as of the 2015 fiscal year.

COMPANIES SAY REGULATIONS PREVENTING MOBILE DIALYSIS CENTERS FROM HELPING PATIENTS AFTER DISASTERS. <u>STAT</u> (9/21, Blau, 43K) reports that several US companies are "eager to build mobile dialysis centers," which "latch onto the back of tractor-trailers and are capable of expanding to the size of an average U.S. apartment, where half-a-dozen or so patients can be simultaneously treated." The manufacturers say mobile dialysis centers would be effective in disaster relief efforts but "burdensome restrictions for their mobilized treatment facilities are preventing storm survivors from getting dialysis in their time of need."

GROUP RELEASES COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON GENDER DIVERSITY IN BIOTECH INDUSTRY.STAT (9/21, Leung, 43K) reports that the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council is releasing a 142-page
report "that is being billed as the most comprehensive study on gender diversity in the industry." The report "is based on a survey of 70 companies and 900 individuals, including current and former employees of the sector."

STUDY SUGGESTS HIGH-DOSE FLU VACCINE USED BY ELDERLY COULD BENEFIT ADULTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS. The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (9/21, Schmitt, 236K) reports a study published online in the journal Vaccine found that the high-dose flu vaccine favored as a treatment for the



elderly may also be helpful for persons aged 50 to 64 with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, as their conditions place them at a greater risk for a serious flu infection. Lead author Jonathan Raviotta said in a statement, "The growing proportion of middle-aged adults with chronic health conditions coupled with the modest effectiveness of the standard-dose influenza vaccine prompted us to explore whether existing vaccines already recommended for the elderly also could protect younger people. ... Sure enough, expanding the recommendation does seem like a good policy. ... Before making such a recommendation, real world clinical trials are needed."

STUDY SUGGESTS INCREASES IN PM 2.5 AIR POLLUTION CORRESPONDS TO WORSENING KIDNEY FUNCTION. The New York Times (9/21, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports a study published in The Journal of the American Society of Nephrology found that increasing levels of "the fine particulate matter known as PM 2.5," an air pollutant, "corresponded directly with decreases in [glomerular filtration rate], indicating worsening kidney function." According to the Times, "The scientists calculate that 'unhealthy' pollution levels lead to an annual increase of 44,793 cases of chronic kidney disease, and 2,438 cases of end-stage kidney disease requiring dialysis. Even levels below those considered 'safe' increased risk."

STUDY SUGGESTS E-CIGARETTES WITH NICOTINE MAY BOOST ADRENALINE LEVELS, INCREASING HEART STRESS. In continuing coverage, TIME (9/21, Park, 5.85M) reports a study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association found that e-cigarettes containing nicotine lead to an increase in adrenaline, "essentially putting the heart under stress, which is a major risk factor for heart attack and stroke." According to lead author Dr. Holly Middlekauff, "Long-term inhaled nicotine hasn't been studied in terms of heart risk. ... If it leads to high adrenaline levels in the heart, which has been shown to be a risk factor in people both with and without heart disease, then that's a problem."

FDA APPROVES DUODENOSCOPE INTENDED TO CURB HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS.<u>Modern Healthcare</u> (9/21, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved "a duodenoscope with a disposable cap, which the agency said will make the device easier to clean and lower the risk of infection." The device, called the ED34-i10T, is made by Pentax.

ST. PARK CITY COUNCIL PLANS TO RESUME PROPOSED MENTHOL BAN HEARING NEXT WEDNESDAY. The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (9/21, Melo, 527K) reports the St. Paul City Council plans to resume a public hearing on a proposal to ban the sale of menthol cigarettes except by adults-only tobacco shops at a 3:30 p.m. meeting next Wednesday. The council heard from both supporters and opponents of the issue on Wednesday, but due to time constraints, had to cut the hearing short with plans to reschedule.

ENGINEERS IN TWO NEW YORK CITY AREA COMMUTER TRAIN CRASHES HAD UNDIAGNOSED SLEEP DISORDERS, US NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD SAYS. Reuters (9/21, Shepardson) reports that "the engineers in two New York City area commuter train crashes suffered from undiagnosed sleep disorders, the US National Transportation Safety Board said" this week. Reuters adds, "The disorder...often goes undiagnosed and can leave sufferers fatigued during the day, according to the US National Institutes of Health."

EXERCISING FOR 30 MINUTES, FIVE DAYS EACH WEEK MAY REDUCE RISK OF EARLY DEATH, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/21, Kelland) reports a study published on Friday in The Lancet found that people who exercise five days per week for at least 30 minutes "significantly reduce their risk of dying early and of developing heart disease." Researchers followed 130,000 people in 17 countries, finding that no matter the kind of physical activity – "whether it's going to the gym, walking to work, or tackling household chores like laundry or gardening" – it "extends life and reduces illness." Researchers also noted the findings showed "no ceiling effect" and "no risks associated with extremely high levels of physical activity."

OFFICIALS CONFIRM MICHIGAN HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK WORSENS. The <u>Detroit News</u> (9/21, 725K) reports Michigan health officials on Thursday announced a Hepatitis A outbreak in the state's



southeast has sickened 319 and led to the deaths of 14 between August 1 and September 15, with cases "in Detroit and Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe and St. Clair counties represent[ing] a 16-fold increase over the same period in 2014-15." Michigan Department of Health and Human Services chief medical executive Dr. Eden Wells said the outbreak "remains a top priority for public health officials from both the investigation and prevention standpoints," adding that the department's "focus is strongly aimed at increasing vaccination in adults, where hepatitis A vaccination is commonly low." Officials have yet to find a common source of the outbreak.

FLORIDA HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION BACKS SCOTT'S PUSH TO INCREASE GENERATOR CAPACITY. In a <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, 8.62M) op-ed, Emmett Reed, executive director of Florida Health Care Association, writes that his organization "grieve[s] the loss of nine elderly residents of a single, non-member South Florida nursing home in the wake of Hurricane Irma," and says it "cannot be allowed to happen again." Reed adds that his group "fully support[s] Gov. Rick Scott's intent to increase generator capacity to help further harden nursing care centers against disasters."

Editorial Questions Where Fault Lies In Case Of Eight Dead Nursing Home Residents. USA Today (9/21, 8.62M) in an editorial questions how, on its website, "the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills boasts that [it]...provides 'top-quality medical care'" and advertises being "located directly across the street'" from a hospital, yet were unable to prevent the residents' deaths. USA Today also questions why the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services do not require facilities to have generators that provide climate maintenance, remarking that its new rule taking effect in November should more clearly state that facilities ought to provide generators, rather than simply "alternate sources of energy." Furthermore, the editorial says "[g]etting past the powerful nursing home lobby," of which it says the Florida Health Care Association is a part, to institute such changes "is a challenge."

INVESTIGATORS REVIEWING DEATHS OF 10 NURSING HOME RESIDENTS CONSIDER PROSECUTION. The AP (9/22, Spencer) reports state and federal authorities are investigating the deaths of ten Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills residents, with the tenth death coming on Wednesday after 94-year-old Martha Murray passed due to problems associated with the facility's operations following Hurricane Irma. Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) and the relatives of the Hollywood facility residents have classified the events as criminal, although Florida law could complicate prosecution efforts against Dr. Jack Michel, the home's owner. Litigators who commented on the matter said prosecutorial action will depend on whether the facility was "culpably negligent," which the state defines as "consciously doing an act or following a course of conduct that the defendant must have known, or reasonably should have known, was likely to cause death or great bodily injury." The facility argues that since it used fans, ice, coolers, and additional methods to assist residents, it is not culpable.

Reuters (9/21, Simpson) reports police announced Murray's death on Thursday, and "have opened a criminal investigation into the deaths at the center." The center's Medicaid participation has been terminated and its license suspended. New reports show residents were taken to hospitals with temperatures as high as 109.9 Fahrenheit.

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/21, Miller, 5.74M) reports Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, which ordered the termination and suspension, said some of the victims were admitted to the hospital "far too late to be saved," adding that the Hollywood facility found staff "overwhelmingly delayed calling 911" and made entries to residents' medical records that "inaccurately depicted what had happened."

The New York Daily News (9/21, Alsup, 3.61M) reports Rehabilitation Center lawyer Kirsten K. Ullman said in a statement that staff found "no indication based on actual conditions" that they should contact emergency responders until one "resident had a significant change in condition."

CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS SUCH AS ASCO'S TAPUR EXAMINING TARGETED TREATMENTS. The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/21, 4.49M) reports on the process by which cancer clinical trials are structured,

enroll participants, and receive FDA approval for treatments, and explains the typical four-phase procedure. The article quotes Eugene Ahn, MD, medical director of clinical research at Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Midwestern Regional Medical Center, as saying the American Society of Clinical



Oncology's "Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study is the first-ever clinical trial by ASCO" that "aims to improve our understanding of how commercially available anti-cancer drugs perform on a broader range of cancers by matching drugs to tumors with specific genomic mutations that the drugs are designed to target regardless of their location in the body." The study will use targeted therapies to treat specific cancers and collect data on how these perform "when used outside of FDA-approved indications." The article notes that the American Society of Clinical Oncology predicts cancer will be the number one cause of death by 2030, and offers recommendations on becoming involved in clinical trials.

FDA GRANTS APPROVAL TO RAPIVAB (PERAMIVIR) FLU INJECTION FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS. The Triangle (NC) Business Journal (9/21, Henderson, Subscription Publication, 865K) reports BioCryst Pharmaceuticals received FDA approval for its RAPIVAB (peramivir) pediatric flu injection. The FDA approved RAPIVAB for adult patients in 2014. BioCryst has also begun testing its hereditary angioedema treatment BCX7353, which the Journal says has seen "positive Phase 2 trial results."

ARIZONA NOT REQUIRED TO REVEAL SOURCE OF EXECUTION DRUGS, FEDERAL JUDGE RULES. The AP (9/21, Billeaud) reports US District Judge Murray Snow recently ruled the state of Arizona is not required to reveal the source of its execution drugs, a decision coming in response to "a lawsuit arguing that the information would help the public determine whether the death penalty is carried out humanely and promote confidence in the criminal justice system." The AP says it was among a group of media outlets that sued for the right to have the information released, although Snow ruled the First Amendment protects citizens' rights to argue about the death penalty but does not require Arizona to publicize "protected information to the detriment of the state's ability to carry out its constitutional, lawfully imposed criminal punishments." The AP reports that two years ago, "Arizona tried to illegally import an anesthetic that has been used to carry out executions but is no longer manufactured by companies approved by the Food and Drug Administration."

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER CAUSE OF INSULIN RESISTANCE IN MICE, THEN REVERSE IT. The <u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> (9/19, Fies, 668K) reports researchers claim to have "discovered a cause of insulin resistance...and reversed it in mice." Investigators found that exosomes "in fat tissue emit messaging molecules that control the process." The <u>findings</u> were published online in the journal Cell.

National News:

US, CHINA IMPOSE NEW SANCTIONS ON NORTH KOREA. Media coverage of the President's announcement Thursday of new sanctions against North Korea is generally positive. Reports cast China's cooperation as a significant development. Two of last night's network broadcasts reported the announcement. Calling it "a major victory for this White House," <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/21, story 4, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) said the President announced "tough new sanctions against North Korea, and with the promise of help from China." Jonathan Karl said, "After threatening to annihilate the entire nation of North Korea," the President "put aside war talk in favor of diplomacy."

On <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/21, story 5, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M), Kristen Welker said the US, Japan, and South Korea presented a "united front at the UN" as the President "ordered some of the toughest sanctions yet against North Korea." In what Welker called "a surprising move," the President "said China's central bank has ordered its other banks to cut off North Korea." Analysts say China's involvement "is critical." Reuters (9/21, Holland, Brunnstrom) reports Trump "stopped short of going after" China, and "praised its central bank for ordering Chinese banks to stop doing business with North Korea." Four sources told Reuters China's central bank "has told banks to strictly implement United Nations sanctions against North Korea."

However, the AP (9/21) reports that while Trump "praised China for instructing its banks to cut off business with Pyongyang...neither the Chinese nor Trump officials were ready to say so." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said he spoke Thursday with the head of China's central bank, but "I am not going to comment on confidential discussions." If enforced, the AP says the "Chinese action Trump described could severely impede the isolated North's ability to raise money for its missile and nuclear development."



The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/21, Morrongiello, 465K) says Mnuchin "provided limited details about the latest sanctions…and the impact they will have with major North Korean trading partners like China," while the <u>New York Post</u> (9/21, Moore, 4.31M) reports Mnuchin said companies around the world "are now on notice" about doing business with North Korea.

The Washington Post (9/21, Phillip, 10.38M) reports Trump announced new financial sanctions "that target North Korea and foreign companies or individuals that do business" with the regime, and "significantly...said that Chinese President Xi Jinping had ordered Chinese banks to cease conducting business with North Korean entities." Trump praised Xi, calling the move "very bold" and "somewhat unexpected." The Washington Times (9/21, Boyer, 541K) similarly reports Trump thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping "for action Thursday by China's central bank," which he acknowledged "was a somewhat unexpected move." The Wall Street Journal (9/21, Radnofsky, Talley, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) also notes Trump's praise for China, which accounts for more than 90% of Pyongyang's trade.

Similarly calling China's move "a crucial step," <u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/21, Talev, 4.52M) says "it isn't clear what effect the heightened sanctions will have on North Korea," but the announcement it "shows that Trump, who earlier this week threatened to 'totally destroy' North Korea...is continuing to pursue economic and diplomatic means to address Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs." Ambassador Haley said the new sanctions won't necessarily "change Kim's attitude," but "will slow down" the regime's weapons programs. The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/21, Wilkinson, 4.49M) reports that the new measures target North Korea's "textiles, fishing industry and shipping. In fact, sanctions against those industries are already in place, so it was not clear what was different about the additional ones."

The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/21, 521K) says the executive order signed Thursday by the President "significantly" expand sanctions on Pyongyang, while <u>Politico</u> (9/21, McCaskill, Nelson, Toosi, 3.6M) says the move "escalat[ed] the US campaign of economic pressure" against the regime. <u>The Hill</u> (9/21, Easley, 1.68M) reports Trump "expressed an urgency to curb North Korea's nuclear and ballistics programs," which he called "a grave threat to peace and security in our world."

Trump, <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Jackson, 8.62M) reports, "appeared to hold out the possibility of negotiations" with North Korea. When asked by a reporter if diplomacy was still possible, Trump responded: "Why not?" The <u>New York Times</u> (9/21, Baker, Sengupta, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that some Trump critics "praised him...for focusing on diplomatic pressure rather than saber rattling."

Vice President Pence said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/21, 1.98M) before the new sanctions were announced that "most Americans know and, frankly, the world knows that a strong, tough-minded, plain-spoken American President contributes to the security and peace in the world. I mean, the simple truth is that North Korea's continued provocations, a nuclear test, ballistic missile test threats against the continental United States of America and allies in the region is unacceptable." Pence added that "the world is in agreement: We cannot permit a rogue regime in Pyongyang to possess ballistic missiles and use nuclear weapons. That represents a threat to the United States, to our allies and other nations in the region and we're going to continue to bring that pressure."

David Ignatius, writing in his <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, 10.38M) column, says US officials need "to decide how serious a threat North Korea truly poses to America." If we see Kim "as a regional threat, rather than a global one," Ignatius writes that "then perhaps the right response is an intelligence strategy that begins with the reality of his split with China – and takes off from there." He notes that in 2003, China "suspended oil deliveries for several days (blaming the problem on a supposed pipeline malfunction) and North Korea quickly began negotiations. In the deniable realm of intelligence operations, it's always possible that a pipeline could 'malfunction' again, or that other crippling difficulties could arise for Pyongyang and its mercurial leader."

Kim Calls Trump "Deranged," Warns He Will "Pay Dearly" For Threats. All three networks last night reported on North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's reaction to President Trump's address to the UN General Assembly earlier this week – during which he threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea and repeated his



"Rocket Man" nickname for Kim. <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/21, story 4, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) said Kim responded to the President's remarks, calling him "mentally deranged and said that he will make him pay dearly...for his speech at the UN." The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/21, story 6, 2:30, Mason, 11.17M) said Kim "shot off his mouth, calling President Trump a 'mentally deranged dotard,' and warning he'll pay dearly for his threats." <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/21, story 5, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) also reported the North Korean leader's remarks, saying "for now, the war of words continues."

The AP (9/21) says the "war of words" between the two leaders "escalated Thursday" when Kim, "speaking in a rare personal address on North Korean television", called Trump a "rogue" and a "gangster." Kim concluded his address vowing: "I will surely and definitely tame the mentally deranged US dotard with fire." USA Today (9/21, Ventura, 8.62M) reports that soon after Kim's address, Merriam-Webster tweeted the definition of "dotard" after it went viral as "a state or period of senile decay marked by decline of mental poise and alertness."

Another <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Estepa, 8.62M) report, meanwhile, examines Trump's use of the nickname "Rocket Man" for Kim, noting that the President "isn't the only US leader who loves nicknames." Former President George W. Bush "shared that penchant and was known for it during his time in office."

North Korean FM Warns Of Possible Hydrogen Bomb Test In Pacific. The AP (9/21) reports South Korea's Yonhap news agency said North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho said Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly that his country may test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean.

Lavrov Warns Against "Warlike Hysteria" Over North Korea. The Wall Street Journal (9/21, Sonne, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned against "warlike hysteria" over North Korea at the UN on Thursday. While he did not mention Trump by name, the Journal says his remarks were nonetheless an implicit rebuke to the President. "The escalation of wartime hysteria is not only a dead end but a ruinous path," Lavrov said.

USA Today Analysis: Trump "Sets Up Showdown" With Iran, North Korea. A USA Today (9/21, Jackson, 8.62M) analysis says President Trump's visit this week to the UN General Assembly "will likely be remembered for its unusual and unadorned attacks on Iran and North Korea that could set the stage for months or even years of nuclear-fueled tension and uncertainty." While Trump "did make some headway Thursday on his push to pressure North Korea to back off its weapons program," it was his threats to "totally destroy" North Korea – and his "Rocket Man" nickname for its leader – "that drew headlines and fueled chatter on the sidelines of the United Nations." According to USA Today, "some allies are concerned about the war-of-words from both Trump and North Korea and want to see more of a diplomatic focus," while others fear he will soon withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.

Russia, China Conducting Military Exercises 100 Miles From North Korean Border. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Ayres, 4.49M) reports that the navies of Russia and China this week "engaged a maritime joint exercise less than 100 miles from the North Korean border with Russia." While Russia and China have been holding joint military exercises since 2012, the timing of the latest drills "is significant" amid rising tensions.

TRUMP SAYS HE WILL VISIT PUERTO RICO TO SURVEY DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE MARIA. During a meeting at the UN General Assembly Thursday, President Trump said "he plans to visit Puerto Rico to personally assess the devastation from Hurricane Maria," the Washington Times (9/21, Miller, 541K) reports. Trump, who "did not say when he would make the visit," said, "Puerto Rico is in very, very tough shape. Their electrical grid is destroyed. It wasn't in great shape to start with." Earlier Thursday, Trump "declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico that made federal funds available to those affected by the storm." A Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) calls Trump's disaster declaration for Puerto Rico "a welcome and needed step as it will make federal assistance available to Puerto Ricans affected by the storm," and adds that his announcement that he will visit the island is "equally welcome" because "in doing so he sets an example for the rest of the country."

Vice President Pence said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (9/21, 1.98M), "With regard to Puerto Rico, we



have people coming ashore now who were pre-positioned on ships. We're about to deliver eight million meals over eight million litters of water, 31 industrial generators. We are there with the people of Puerto Rico as President Trump has said and we are going to stay there until Puerto Rico and all the good people there build all the way back."

Meanwhile, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/21, De Córdoba, Campo-Flores, De Avila, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports on the damage Maria left in Puerto Rico and says officials have warned residents that a difficult road to recovery lies ahead. According to Abner Gómez, executive director of Puerto Rico's emergency-management agency, residents will likely have to do without aid for 72 hours, due to the severity of the damage and the demands on government resources. A front-page story in the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, A1, Schmidt, Somashekhar, Zezima, 10.38M) reports that on Thursday, "emergency management teams and the National Guard rescued dozens of residents, taking them to nearby shelters. But many more remained stuck in their homes with almost no cellphone reception, some of them waiting on their rooftops."

A front-page story in the New York Times (9/21, A1, Ferré-sadurní, Alvarez, Robles, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says "the road to recovery just went from long to seemingly endless" for Puerto Rico, which has been "long crippled by enormous debt and an essentially bankrupt financial system." The island "faces a mountain of need in the coming months just as the federal government is stretched to the limit grappling with the destruction left by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma." The Miami Herald (9/21, Mazzei, Martínez, 701K) also reports on the devastation in Puerto Rico, saying "the enormity of Maria's destruction [is] still unknown even to the overwhelmed Puerto Rican government."

Carlos Mercader, executive director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration was asked on CNN's The Lead (9/21, 928K) what the island's most immediate need is. Mercader said, "Right now, definitely that would be restoration of the communication on the island. Right now we're working with FEMA in what we call PREMA, which is the emergency agency in Puerto Rico, to reestablish down there in that location satellites so we can start getting communications. ... And also, obviously, electricity. Right now we have 100 percent of the island without electricity. Hospitals that are being operated with generators and other buildings that basically depend on generators. That's why we're also asking for more generators because we know that the infrastructure was hit so bad with the winds and the flooding that to restore that kind of infrastructure is going to take a long time."

NBC Nightly News (9/21, story 3, 0:15, Holt, 16.61M) reported that Maria "regained strength after it struck Puerto Rico" and is "expected to cut close to Turks and Caicos late tonight, and after that, the current track shows it barreling between the US east coast and Bermuda."

Maria Kills 15 On Dominica. On NBC Nightly News (9/21, lead story, 2:45, Holt, 16.61M), Gabe Gutierrez reported, "In hard-hit Dominica, officials confirm 15 people died from the storm." USA Today (9/21, Stanglin, Rice, 8.62M) says Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, who "cried as he spoke to a reporter on the nearby island of Antigua," said, "We have buried in excess of 15 people. ... It is a miracle there were not hundreds of deaths."

ABC World News Tonight (9/21, story 3, 1:05, Muir, 14.63M) reported that there is "great concern for American medical students on Dominica" as the island has been "wiped out" by Hurricane Maria. ABC (Oquendo) added that there are many "missing in communities that are completely cut off." Yet, late Thursday, there was "word that 1,000 medical students, many of them American, whose condition was unknown, have been reached and are confirmed safe."

ADMINISTRATION TARGETING PROGRAM THAT MANAGES LONG-TERM DISASTER RELIEF.McClatchy (9/21, Daugherty, 67K) reports that the Trump Administration is targeting for elimination the "federal agency tasked with managing billions in long-term hurricane-relief money." In addition to administering "\$3 billion a year to local communities for programs like Meals on Wheels," HUD's Community Block Grant Program, "has also managed more than \$50 billion in taxpayer dollars since 1993 to help with long-term disaster relief." McClatchy says the White House did not respond to a request for comment "and it's unclear how the federal government would coordinate long-term disaster relief



without the Community Development Block Grant program." Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), who "doesn't think the Community Block Grant Program should be eliminated," said, "The CDBG Disaster Recovery program is a critical tool that helps communities and neighborhoods rebuild and start the recovery process following a natural disaster."

MORE THAN 800 REMAIN IN FLORIDA SHELTERS AFTER HURRICANE IRMA. The Naples (FL) Daily News (9/21, Cardona, 142K) report that nearly two weeks after Hurricane Irma "transformed the landscape of Southwest Florida and devastated its residents, more than 800 people are still living in shelters in Collier and Lee counties." While "the number of shelter residents dwindles each day as power is restored to people's homes," those "who have nowhere else to go after the shelters close are worried about the uncertainty of their future."

TENTH RESIDENT FROM FLORIDA NURSING HOME DIES. The Miami Herald (9/21, Koh, 701K) reports that a tenth person from the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, which "turned into a deadly hothouse when its air conditioning lost power after Hurricane Irma has died, police said."

Florida Agency Redacts Inspection Reports For Nursing Homes. The Miami Herald (9/21, KlasHerald, 701K) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott's Administration "has heavily censored what the public can see" in inspection reports of nursing homes in the state. The Agency for Health Care Administration has in the last year "purchased and employed new redaction software that removes key words, dates and descriptions from the inspection reports posted online." The Herald cites an inspection report for the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills in which words were blacked out. While the agency "says it is simply following the federal HIPAA rules," the same report, "submitted by AHCA to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is also available to the public – without the words redacted."

USA Today: States Should Require Nursing Homes To Have Generators. In an editorial, USA Today (9/21, 8.62M) says the "blame game" that has followed the deaths at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills during Hurricane Irma "avoids the real problem," which is that the facility "had one operable backup generator, which did not run air conditioning," and "no one – not the federal government, not the state and not the county – required the facility to have an emergency generator dedicated to keeping fragile residents cool in a state that regularly experiences hurricanes, flooding and sweltering heat." USA Today argues that "states, which take the lead in regulating nursing homes, ought to require generators in plain language."

Florida Healthcare Association Backs Scott's Push To Increase Generator Capacity. In an accompanying USA Today (9/21, 8.62M) op-ed, Emmett Reed, executive director of Florida Health Care Association, writes that his organization "grieve[s] the loss of nine elderly residents of a single, non-member South Florida nursing home in the wake of Hurricane Irma," and says it "cannot be allowed to happen again." Reed adds that his group "fully support[s] Gov. Rick Scott's intent to increase generator capacity to help further harden nursing care centers against disasters."

CLIMATOLOGIST REBUTS CLAIM THAT ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON IS DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The Washington Times (9/21, Richardson, 541K) reports that University of Alabama climatologist Roy Spencer, who recently rebutted Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Sequel," has "published another short e-book, this one challenging statements by Jennifer Lawrence, Bill Nye, Stevie Wonder and others linking global warming to this year's active hurricane season." The 50-page book, titled, "Inevitable Disaster: Why Hurricanes Can't Be Blamed on Global Warming," challenges "the oft-repeated assertion that this year's powerful hurricane season is 'what climate change looks like,' arguing that the storms are neither an aberration nor a result of rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere." Spencer said in the book, "This isn't what human-caused climate change looks like. ... It's what weather looks like."

PENCE: ADMINISTRATION "FULLY COOPERATING" WITH MUELLER INVESTIGATION. The Washington Times (9/21, Persons, 541K) reports that Vice President Pence told Fox News on Thursday that the Trump Administration "is 'fully cooperating' with the special counsel's team regarding the Russia investigation." Pence said, "All these revelations are breathtaking to me, including the recent news that there was in fact wiretapping against someone who had a condominium in the Trump Tower. But look,



that whole process is going to go forward and I assure you that we're fully cooperating with special counsel's efforts. We'll continue to do that."

Pence similarly aid on <u>CBS This Morning</u> (9/21, 3.81M), "We're fully cooperating with the special counsel, and we'll continue to do that. I've made clear that during my time on the campaign, I was not aware of any contacts or any collusion with Russian officials. I stand by that. As I said, we'll provide any information the special counsel requires, but honestly, this not what the American people are focused on." <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/21, 6:49 p.m. EDT, 875K) reported on that on CBS, Pence denied any knowledge about the "Russia investigation and the story about Paul Manafort offering to brief a Russian billionaire about what he knew about the campaign."

Mueller Seeking Records On Russia Meeting Statement, Spicer Briefing. Politico (9/21, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports that Special Counsel Robert Mueller "has sought phone records concerning the statement written aboard Air Force One defending a meeting between Trump campaign officials and Russians at Trump Tower" in 2016, according to two people familiar with the investigation. Mueller "has also asked the White House for documents and emails connected to a May 3 press briefing" where then-press secretary Sean Spicer said President Trump had confidence in then-FBI Director James Comey. The CBS Evening News (9/21, story 2, 1:45, Mason, 11.17M) reported that Mueller may be interested in the so-called "Spicer files" – detailed notes that Spicer took both during the campaign and while at the White House.

Congress Urged To Take Steps To Protect Mueller Documents In Case He Is Fired. USA Today (9/21, Kelly, 8.62M) reports, "With the continuing possibility that President Trump could fire" Mueller "to thwart the Russia investigation," veterans of past investigations are urging Congress to take steps to prevent documents from being destroyed. Andrew Wright, the former staff director of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, says that leaders of any of the three congressional panels investigating Russia "could issue a subpoena at any time saying they want every document that Mueller's investigation has produced."

DOJ Seeks Documents From Law Firm Hired By Manafort For Ukraine Work. The New York Times (9/21, Vogel, Kramer, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, which was hired by Paul Manafort to draft a report justifying then-Ukranian leader Viktor Yanukovych's jailing of a political rival, is now being investigated by the Justice Department about that work. The DOJ request for documents "comes at a time when Mr. Manafort, his work for Mr. Yanukovych's party and for Russian and Ukrainian oligarchs as well as the handling of payments for that work have become focal points" in the Russia inquiry. The Wall Street Journal (9/21, Harris, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that according to US officials, Manafort was placed under federal surveillance after he was dismissed as Trump's campaign manager last summer.

Grassley Wants To Know Whether FBI Alerted Trump Campaign About Russian Attempts. USA Today (9/21, Kelly, 8.62M) reports that Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley sent a letter to FBI Director Wray "asking if agents ever warned Donald Trump about possible attempts by the Russian government to infiltrate his campaign last year." Grassley wrote, "If the FBI did provide a defensive briefing or similar warning to the [Trump] campaign, then that would raise important questions about how the Trump campaign responded. On the other hand, if the FBI did not alert the campaign, then that would raise serious questions about what factors contributed to its decision and why it appears to have been handled differently in a very similar circumstance involving a previous campaign."

Facebook Will Turn Over Russia-Linked Ads To Congress And Mueller. The CBS Evening News (9/21, lead story, 2:20, Mason, 11.17M) opened its Thursday evening newscast by reporting that Facebook "promised greater cooperation today in the investigation of Russian meddling in the US election. Founder Mark Zuckerberg said the company will turn over to Congress thousand of ads that were posted on Facebook and later linked to Russia, and he promised to make political ads on Facebook more transparent." NBC Nightly News (9/21, story 6, 1:30, Holt, 16.61M) reported that Zuckerberg said Facebook will turn over 3,000 ads linked to Russia to both Congress and Mueller. ABC World News Tonight (9/21, story 5, 2:20, Muir, 14.63M) showed a clip of Zuckerberg saying, "I don't want anyone to



use our tools to undermine democracy. That's not what we stand for." ABC's Brian Ross: "Russian companies spent more than \$100,000 on the ads, most of them praising Donald Trump or attacking Hillary Clinton. Millions of Americans saw them."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Guynn, 8.62M) reports that Zuckerberg also pledged that his company "would do everything it could to prevent 'bad actors' from again using Facebook to manipulate voter sentiment during elections." The <u>New York Times</u> (9/21, Shane, Isaac, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the announcement "came after the company spent two weeks facing calls for greater transparency about the 470 Russia-linked accounts that it took down after they had promoted inflammatory messages on divisive issues."

The Washington Post (9/21, Leonnig, Timberg, 10.38M) reports that Facebook general counsel Colin Stretch said in a blog post that "the company concluded that it was 'vitally important' to cooperate fully with Congress and that the company could do so in a way that didn't endanger user privacy." However, the Washington Times (9/21, 541K) reports that "critics say Facebook should go further. They say the company should tell its users how they might have been influenced by outside meddlers." The AP (9/21, Ortutay, Lobianco), the Wall Street Journal (9/21, McMillan, Tau, Seetharaman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), and Politico (9/21, Dawsey, Watkins, 3.6M) also report on Facebook's announcement.

On <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/21, 6:25 p.m. EDT, 875K), Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) called for the "immediate" passage of two "strong" laws: one requiring new advertising platforms to disclose who is buying political ads, and one criminalizing foreign countries' engagement in US elections. Also on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/21, 5:22 p.m. EDT, 986K), Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said he wanted to see public hearings on the matter, but declined to attribute liability to Facebook for failing to previously detect Russia's placement of the ads on its platform.

Twitter Representatives To Meet With Senate Intelligence Committee Staff. The Hill (9/21, Bowden, 1.68M) reports that Twitter representatives "will meet with staff from the Senate Intelligence Committee next week in connection with" the Russia probe. A company spokesperson said, "We are cooperating with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in its inquiry into the 2016 election and will meet with committee staff next week." On CNN's Situation Room (9/21, 5:19 p.m. EDT, 986K), Manu Raju said the meeting will take place "in a classified setting."

<u>Foreign Policy</u> (9/21, McLaughlin, 372K) examines how "Kremlin-funded media outlet RT" planned to use Twitter in its 2016 election coverage, including a failed plan to adopt the handles @NotHillary and @NotTrump.

Waters: Enough Evidence Exists To Begin Impeachment Process. The Washington Times (9/21, Chasmar, 541K) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) told a Congressional Black Caucus Town Hall on Civil Rights on Thursday that there is "enough evidence for Congress to begin the impeachment process" against Trump. Waters said, "Impeachment is about whatever the Congress says it is. There is no law that dictates impeachment. What the Constitution says is 'high crimes and misdemeanors,' and we define that." The Daily Caller (9/21, 521K) reports that Waters also said that she can "guarantee you [that Trump] is in collusion with the Russians to undermine our democracy."

Trump Could Be On Stage With Comey, Mueller, McCabe At Wray Ceremony. The Washington Post (9/21, Barrett, 10.38M) reports under the headline "A Ceremony At The FBI Next Week Could Make For Some Extremely Awkward Encounters" that Wray's installation ceremony next Thursday "could place President Trump on stage with Deputy Director Andrew McCabe – a man whose integrity the president has repeatedly publicly challenged – and speaking to a front-row audience that includes" Comey – "the director he dismissed" – and Mueller – "the special counsel investigating whether Trump attempted to obstruct justice."

DOJ ARGUES COURT SHOULD NULLIFY ARPAIO RULINGS AFTER TRUMP PARDON. Politico (9/21, Gerstein, 3.6M) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that in a court filing Thursday, the Justice Department argued that former sheriff Joe Arpaio "is entitled to have the guilty verdict and all rulings in his



criminal contempt of court case formally nullified by the court" as a result of his presidential pardon. In response to a request from US District Court Judge Susan Bolton, prosecutors "acknowledged that there is no legal precedent that squarely answers the question of what should happen when someone receives a pardon after a verdict is reached (in this case by a judge) but before the conviction is officially entered." However, they "suggested that it would be unfair to leave the guilty verdict in place, while the pardon effectively denies Arpaio the right to appeal it."

WHITE HOUSE HOLDS FIRST MEETING ON RESHAPING CLIMATE CHANGE GOALS. A "White House representative" has confirmed to the Washington Examiner (9/21, Siciliano, 465K) that the White House on Thursday began "the first of a series of meetings...that will lead to the reshaping of the Trump administration's climate change goals and policy." The spokesman described the meeting between "the White House and officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Energy Department, State Department and the Department of Interior," as "a forward-looking meeting on strategy and how to prioritize the administration's climate goals and objectives moving forward." The spokesman added, "This particular meeting was more big picture strategy," and its purpose was to bring together "a whole group of stakeholders ... that are involved in climate issues and looking ahead to what policy initiatives we may put in place."

DEMOCRATS SEEK IG PROBE OF PRICE'S USE OF CHARTER FLIGHTS. <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Estepa, 8.62M) reports that five congressional Democrats – Sens. Patty Murray, Gary Peters, and Ron Wyden, and Reps. Richard Neal (D-MA) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) – are calling on the HHS inspector general to investigate HHS Secretary Price's travels. The request comes in the wake of a Politico <u>report</u> which said Price "took five separate chartered flights while on official business." The lawmakers called the report "troubling," and asked the IG to "review whether Price's travels had met federal regulations and department policies, which state that travel should be 'cost-effective' and 'advantageous to the government."

In a new report, Politico (9/21, Pradhan, Diamond, 3.6M) says Price "has taken at least 24 flights on private charter planes at taxpayers' expense since early May, according to people with knowledge of his travel plans and a review of HHS documents." Citing the frequency of the trips, Politico says "private travel has become the norm – rather than the exception – for the Georgia Republican during his tenure atop the federal health agency." While HHS officials "have said Price uses private jets only when commercial travel is not feasible," many of the flights "are between large cities with frequent, low-cost airline traffic."

In an op-ed for <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, 8.62M), Cheri Jacobus, the president of Capitol Strategies PR, argues that the Trump Administration, including Price, is not being held to the same standards that previous administrations were when members of both parties "took a strong stance against government officials being so blatantly cavalier about wasting our tax dollars on travel for personal trips or when more economical methods of transport are readily available for business."

DEVOS PAYS FOR PRIVATE PLANE FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Politico (9/21, Emma, 3.6M) reports the Education Department confirmed Thursday that Education Secretary DeVos "flies on her private jet for official business and pays all her own travel expenses as well as the travel costs of the federal marshals who accompany her." Spokeswoman Liz Hill said in an email, "Secretary DeVos travels on personally-owned aircraft, accompanied by her security detail and whenever possible, additional support staff, at zero cost to US taxpayers." The AP (9/21, Danilova) quotes Hill's email as saying, "The secretary neither seeks, nor accepts, any reimbursement for her flights, nor for any additional official travel-related expenses, such as lodging and per diem, even though she is entitled to such reimbursement under government travel regulations. ... Secretary DeVos accepted her position to serve the public and is fully committed to being a faithful steward of taxpayer dollars."

PERDUE MOTORCADE INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT. Politico (9/21, Evich, 3.6M) reports that Agriculture Secretary Perdue's motorcade "was involved in an accident in Texas on Thursday" which sent two aides to House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway and one from the Department of Agriculture to the hospital. The accident occurred "while officials were surveying damage from Hurricane Harvey."



ATTKISSON: "IT LOOKS LIKE OBAMA DID SPY ON TRUMP, JUST AS HE APPARENTLY DID TO ME." The Washington Times (9/21, Ernst, 541K) reports that investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson "says media outlets are 'diving deeply into minutiae' to avoid a stark development: President Trump's previously ridiculed 'wiretapping' claims appear to be true." In a Wednesday op-ed for The Hill – titled "It Looks Like Obama Did Spy On Trump, Just As He Apparently Did To Me" – Attkisson, who "has warned of the weaponization of intelligence agencies since her laptop for CBS News stories was hacked on multiple occasions in 2013," made "an extensive case that US intelligence agencies under former President Barack Obama were manipulated for political purposes – and that pundits are willfully ignoring it. She highlighted reports that the FBI did monitor the communications of Mr. Trump's then campaign head Paul Manafort prior to the 2016 election, along with what seems to be at least six associates." Townhall (9/21, Vespa, 523K) also highlighted Attkisson's op-ed.

AUTHOR: CNN'S ACOSTA IS ADMINISTRATION'S "CHIEF ANTAGONIST" AND WHITE HOUSE'S "**PERFECT FOIL."** In a piece for <u>Politico Magazine</u> (9/21, Strauss, 3.55M) titled "Jim Acosta Is The White House's Favorite Reporter," author Ben Strauss says that CNN reporter Jim Acosta has emerged "as the chief antagonist" of the Trump Administration "for a network that styles itself as [President] Trump's chief antagonist, a sparring partner for the administration in the unscripted reality TV show that is the daily briefing. Fans leave bourbon in Acosta's mailbox and stop him on the street to thank him for standing up to Trump's policies and press-bashing; his critics, some of them within his own newsroom, worry he has strayed into naked partisanship in pursuit of ratings and allowed himself to be cast as the perfect foil for an administration that has pegged the mainstream media as an enemy." Of Acosta, writes Strauss, "one White House reporter told me, 'He's as good a foil as the administration can find in the press room."

USA TODAY ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S ELECTION LIKELY CHANGED OUTCOME OF SUPREME COURT'S LABOR CASES. In an analysis, <u>USA Today</u> (9/21, Wolf, 8.62M) reports that the Supreme Court is slated to hear two labor rights cases as it opens its 2017 term – both of which "will decide whether millions of employees who sign individual arbitration agreements, often unknowingly, can be barred from banding together with other workers." USA Today observes the fate of the case has altered with the election of President Trump, with Justice Gorsuch likely to argue a decision in favor of employers, as opposed to Merrick Garland's likely defense of unions.

FORMER OBAMA OFFICIALS FORM COALITION TO COMBAT ROLLBACK OF PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENT BORROWERS. The Washington Post (9/21, Douglas-Gabriel, 10.38M) reports that a group of attorneys and policy advisers from the Obama Administration have formed a coalition "to do what they say Education Secretary Betsy DeVos seems incapable of doing: protecting students." The "National Student Legal Defense Network" will "partner with state attorneys general and advocacy groups to combat what they describe as the erosion of civil liberties and consumer protections under the Trump administration." The group's creation "comes as liberal lawmakers and student advocates accuse the Trump administration of watering down the enforcement of regulations to safeguard student loan borrowers." Under Trump, the Education Department "has withdrawn, delayed or announced plans to revamp more than a half-dozen Obama-era measures involving federal student aid this year."

NAVAJO NATION PLANS TO SUE ADMINISTRATION IF IT REDUCES SIZE OF BEARS EARS MONUMENT. The Washington Examiner (9/21, Siegel, 465K) reports that Navajo Nation attorney general Ethel Branch said Thursday the tribe is planning to sue the Administration if it attempts to reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. The Navajo Nation "argues changing the boundaries of Bears Ears would violate the Antiquities Act, a century-old law that permits presidents to unilaterally protect sacred sites, cultural artifacts and other historical objects."

HOUSE PUSHING TWO MEASURES TO EASE GUN RESTRICTIONS. Politico (9/21, Bresnahan, 3.6M) reports that House Republicans are planning to vote on two firearm-related measures in the coming weeks – one, a bill relaxing restrictions on the purchases of gun silencers, and the other, a measure allowing "concealed carry" permit holders to carry their weapons to other states. According to GOP lawmakers and aides, the silencer measure could come up to vote as early as next week, and the "concealed carry" measure could be voted on this October. Politico observes the measures likely will pass



the House but face steeper opposition in the Senate.

SEC FACES CRITICISM AFTER ADMITTING DATA BREACH. NBC Nightly News (9/21, story 8, 0:25, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission is now facing criticism after admitting a database was breached in 2016, and "that hackers may have been making illegal trades up until last month."

Reuters (9/21, Lynch) reports that DHS "detected five 'critical' cyber security weaknesses" on the SEC's computers as of January 23, 2017, according to a confidential weekly DHS report. The January report's findings "raise fresh questions" about the 2016 breach of the SEC's corporate filing system knows as "EDGAR," but it "was not clear if the vulnerabilities detected by DHS are directly related" to the breach disclosed late Wednesday. The report does, however, indicate the SEC at the time "had the fourth most 'critical' vulnerabilities," and that "even after the SEC says it patched 'promptly' the software vulnerability after the 2016 hack, critical vulnerabilities still plagued the regulator's systems."

The Wall Street Journal (9/21, A1, Michaels, Eaglesham, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that several top SEC officials were not informed about the cyberattack until recently – a fact that some say indicates the agency appeared not to have followed usual protocols for public companies, in which cybersecurity matters are overseen by a board of directors. Former SEC Commissioner Michael Piwowar, who ran the agency for three months earlier this year, said Wednesday he was only recently told of the breach, and former SEC Commissioner Kara Stein was informed of the incident this week, according to a person familiar with the matter.

WSJournal: SEC Breach Disclosure Was Embarrassing. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/21, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) criticizes the SEC for revealing its EDGAR system breach in a four-line admission in the middle of a 4,000-word statement on cybersecurity released Wednesday – an admission the Journal describes as burying the lead. The Journal writes the disclosure provided little information after weeks of learning about the incident, and argues the disclosure was particularly embarrassing in the wake of the Equifax breach.

OFFICIALS CONSIDER REMOVING FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF AIG. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/21, Tracy, Scism, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Administration officials are considering removing federal oversight of AIG – a matter scheduled to be discussed at Friday's meeting of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, according to people familiar with the matter. The outcome of the council's decision is uncertain, and a vote on the issue may be delayed to a future meeting.

CORPORATE AMERICA HAS RECORD AMOUNT OF CASH. <u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/21, Chandra, 4.52M) reports that non-financial companies' liquid assets, which include foreign deposits and currency, "reached a record of almost \$2.3 trillion in the second quarter," according to Federal Reserve data released Thursday – an increase of nearly 60 percent since the end of the recession in mid-2009.

Buffett Predicts Dow Will Top One Million In A Century. CNBC (9/21, Moyer, 3.48M) reports that Warren Buffett earlier this week predicted the Dow Jones industrial average would top one million in 100 years, up from 22,397 – a prediction that drew a joke from fellow billionaire Mario Gabelli, who tweeted Thursday: "DOWJones ...one million in one hundred years ...has Buffett turned bearish?" When contacted about the tweet, Gabelli said "he was 'just having some fun' with numbers, but added the roughly 3.9% compound annual growth rate needed to get from where the Dow is today to where Buffett predicts it will be in 2117 would be lower than the 5.5% CAGR from the beginning of the 20th century until now."

SHALE BILLIONAIRE CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S "EXAGGERATED" OIL PROJECTIONS.

Bloomberg News (9/21, Nussbaum, Steel, 4.52M) reports that billionaire shale oil businessman Harold Hamm "says the government was way too optimistic with its prediction of more than 1 million new barrels a day in US production" – compared with the 500,000 barrels actually produced – and argues the "exaggerated" prediction is "distorting" global crude prices. During a Thursday interview on Bloomberg TV, Hamm said the US Energy Information Administration was "just flat wrong" and failed to take into account a new discipline among US drillers.



STUDY SAYS CONTAMINATED WATER IN FLINT LED TO INCREASE IN FETAL DEATH RATES.

The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/21, story 7, 2:10, Mason, 11.17M) reported that a new medical research study found that contaminated water in Flint, Michigan has contributed to "severe health problems." According to the study, "fetal death rates increased by 58 percent in Flint after the city switched its water source in April 2014." Daniel Grossman, a co-author of the study, said, "Costs of this water change were not limited simply to affects on children and adults, but also lead to large decreases in fertility rates, which could have long-lasting effects on the city itself."

EEOC: BLACK DETECTIVES WERE BYPASSED FOR NYPD PROMOTIONS. The New York Times (9/21, Mueller, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found last year that the promotions process in one powerful NYPD division – the Intelligence Division – "systematically stymied black detectives" and left them "with less pay, power and prestige than their similarly qualified white counterparts." According to the Times, "The Justice Department, which has retreated from police oversight under President Trump, said in June that it would not sue the New York Police Department over the findings. That averted a high-profile confrontation with the nation's largest police force for Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who has said federal interventions in local policing are bad for morale." The Times says "the detectives plan to sue the department in the coming days."

EX-SHERIFF CLARKE RESPONDS TO JOURNAL SENTINEL REPORTER'S QUESTION WITH AN "F-BOMB." Under the headline "Former Sheriff Lobs F-bomb At Journal Sentinel Reporter," David Bice writes for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/21, 628K), "Last week, officials who used to work for [ex-Milwaukee County Sheriff David] Clarke released numbers showing that the county spent more than \$225,000 providing round-the-clock security at his home from the start of 2017 until he resigned in late August." Bice says he "sent an email to Clarke's new official email address asking for a response to the numbers as well as the decision by his successor, Acting Sheriff Richard Schmidt, to end the security detail. Clarke's answer was to the point. '(Expletive) you and the horse you rode in on.' I'm David Clarke and I approve this message."

CONTROVERSY GROWS OVER NEW JERSEY COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATIONS. The Bergen (NJ) Record (9/21, Ervolino) reports on the efforts of Italian American One Voice Coalition and others who are "are urging Italian Americans to support their local Columbus Day parades this year on Sunday, Oct. 8, and to also take part in the Manhattan parade on Monday, Oct. 9, despite criticism from Native Americans, Latinos and even some Italian-Americans calling for an end to the Columbus holiday altogether and the removal of monuments to him."

TIME ANALYSIS: DEEPLY DIVIDED DEMOCRATS SHOW "NO SIGN" THEY'VE "LEARNED THE LESSONS" OF 2016. Writing on the website of TIME (9/21, 5.85M), Phillip Elliott said, "On the surface, the Democratic Party has been united and energized by its shared disgust for [President] Trump. But dig an inch deeper and it's clear that the party is divided, split on issues including free trade, health care, foreign affairs and Wall Street. They even disagree over the political wisdom of doing deals with Trump." Elliott said that "eight months into the Trump presidency, the party looks to face its toughest odds since Ronald Reagan won 49 states in 1984. The Democrats are in their deepest congressional rut since the class of 1946 was elected, and hold the fewest governors' mansions – 15 – since 1922. Of the 98 partisan legislatures in the US, Republicans control 67." And, added Elliott, "there's still no sign the Democrats have learned the lessons of the last" election.

MEDIA ANALYSES: AT DEBATE, STRANGE TOUTS TRUMP'S SUPPORT, MOORE GOES ON THE ATTACK. Ex-state Supreme Justice Roy Moore and appointed Sen. Luther Strange, who are battling in the Sept. 26 Alabama GOP primary runoff in the special election for the former seat of now-US Attorney General Sessions, on Thursday faced off in the only debate of their runoff, a forum that saw Strange repeatedly invoking President Trump's support and Moore on the attack against his rival.

Writing for the Montgomery (AL) Advertiser (9/21, 18K), Bryan Lyman says, "A person who knew nothing about" either candidate "could conclude two things from Thursday night's debate: Strange really likes...Trump, and Moore has been attacked by...Strange." Lyman adds that Strange referred "to his



relationship and endorsement from" the President "throughout the debate," saying at one point, "Who does the President support? The President supports me." Moore, meanwhile, pressured "Strange on support from [Senate Majority Leader] McConnell's Senate Leadership Fund and attack ads against Moore, at one point claiming that Strange 'is proud of attacking my wife."

Writing at Alabama Live (9/21, 608K), John Archibald says Strange "stayed on message all night: President Donald Trump really really likes him. President Trump picked him. President Trump is coming to see him. ... If he said it once, he said it a hundred times. And while Moore did not stay on message...he was clear on his response. 'It's a good thing I'm not running against the president,' he said. 'I'm running against Luther Strange.'"

The New York Times (9/21, Martin, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Strange "used every opportunity he had at" the debate "to invoke his support from...Trump." Moore, in turn, launched "a litany of accusations against Mr. Strange and ridiculed his reliance on the president's endorsement." The Times adds that Moore "mocked" his rival's "grasping of the president's coattails, accusing him of offering a one-note message and even being a tad obsessive. 'I can't tell you what the president thinks, I can't tell you every move he makes, when he goes to the bathroom and when he doesn't,' Mr. Moore shot back after Mr. Strange claimed that Mr. Trump had noticed" Moore's "apparent unfamiliarity with the Obama-era immigration program known as DACA."

Politico (9/21, Isenstadt, Strauss, 3.6M) reported that near the end of the debate, Moore "referred to recent changes among Trump's senior staff, including the departure of [Steve Bannon]" and charged that "Trump was being manipulated by" McConnell. Strange fired back, "You just said that [Trump] was being manipulated by Mitch McConnell," adding that "to suggest that the president of the United States, the head of the free world, a man who is changing the free world, is being manipulated by Mitch McConnell is insulting to the president. It's absolutely insulting to the president." Strange continued, "That's why he's chosen me. He's not being manipulated by anyone. In fact, many people that are supporting you look like the unemployment line at the White House. They were fired. They are not there."

On its website, <u>NBC News</u> (9/22, Seitz-Wald, 3.46M) reported that Strange "mentioned his support from Trump and relationship with the president repeatedly throughout the debate," saying "only his 'personal relationship' with his 'good friend' Trump will help get the president's agenda passed in Washington, encouraging Alabamians to follow the president on Twitter and bragging that they had spoken for a half hour the night before." The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/21, McLaughlin, 541K) reports that during the debate, Strange sought "to make the most of the support" from Trump, "repeatedly reminding voters...of the close bond he has developed with the president. 'The president had a choice and he picked me,' Mr. Strange said."

On its website, Fox News (9/21, 12.87M) reported that Moore "said Trump was right to campaign against lobbyists during the presidential race, so it didn't make sense that he'd back Strange. 'You don't get rid of lobbyists in the swamp by sending them to the United States Senate,' Moore said. 'This is pure hypocrisy in this race.'"

Writing for the <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/21, 521K), Alex Pfeiffer said that Moore's "performance was reminiscent of...Trump's face-offs against establishment Republican opponents in the presidential primary. ... 'We can pretty much tell he's going to attack the whole night. I've heard precious little about the issues or what he's actually going to do,' Strange responded at one point in the debate. Trump, like Moore, lobbed personal attacks at Republican opponents in the presidential primary. Failed candidate Jeb Bush at one point told Trump, 'you can't insult your way to the presidency."

Media Analyses: Trump Backing Strange, But Many Of President's Fans Support Moore. The Los Angeles Times (9/21, Mascaro, 4.49M) reports that Trump today will visit Alabama to stump Strange. But while Alabama "overwhelmingly supported Trump" in November's election, "some think the president is backing the wrong man. And they're not sure his visit will help. Voter enthusiasm instead runs high for the more Trump-like candidate...Moore." The Times adds, "The GOP establishment has" spent "millions of dollars" backing Strange, "much from...McConnell's aligned Senate Leadership Fund. But a rival group,



run by allies of" Steve Bannon, is supporting Moore.

The AP (9/21, Lucey, Chandler) reports that the contest "has an awkward dynamic:" Trump is "campaigning for the establishment-backed incumbent over an upstart beloved by many of his own most ardent supporters, including...Bannon." The Washington Times (9/21, Persons, 541K) reports that Strange on Thursday said that Trump's "visit to Alabama will be the game changer in his senatorial bid." Appearing on Fox News, Strange said, "To have the President and Vice President say this is the guy we need in Washington because we can work with him. He's effective. He understands how to get things done. I think that's going to be the difference in this race, I really do."

The Hill (9/21, Manchester, 1.68M) reported that in a Thursday tweet, Trump said that "Strange is closing the gap in the polls since he endorsed him, despite Strange trailing...Moore. 'Senator Luther Strange has gone up a lot in the polls since I endorsed him a month ago. Now a close runoff. He will be great in D.C.,' Trump tweeted." The Hill added, "Moore was leading Strange by double digits in August. The gap has narrowed but recent polling still shows Moore ahead of Strange. Polling averages show Moore leading Strange by 9 points, according to The Washington Post."

Roll Call (9/21, Bowman, 134K) reported that while allies of Strange "have outspent Moore in the campaign, hitting him with a barrage of negative ads, Moore has been ahead in public polling. But Strange supporters say they see a close race, and are hopeful that a last-ditch effort by the president will help turn out Strange's voters for Tuesday's election. 'They're bringing in the big guns for Strange, so it will be interesting to see what that does,' said Brent Buchanan, an Alabama GOP strategist. 'Thus far, all the attacks on Moore have just reminded voters when the election is.'"

On its front page, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/21, A1, Scherer, 10.38M) reports that GOP "primary voters across the country have been trying since 2010 to elect angry, outsider candidates who promise to disrupt the ways of Washington. But no one in recent history has promised to be quite as disruptive as Moore, a former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court who has twice been removed from the bench for defying judicial orders. And few have divided the GOP as Moore's candidacy has, producing a momentous power struggle over" a contest that may "set the tone for the coming 2018 election battles."

Palin, Gorka Rip Strange, Laud Moore During Montgomery Rally. Alabama Live (9/21, Koplowitz, 608K) reports that Sarah Palin, Moore's "most high-profile supporter, rallied on behalf of the" candidate "in Montgomery on Thursday," linking Strange "to the Washington culture that Republican voters rejected in November." Said Palin, "Make no mistake: Big Luther is Mitch McConnell's guy. On Tuesday, you get to tell [the establishment], 'Hey, our movement isn't over and it's not slowing down." While Trump is backing Strange, Palin "said Moore more closely resembles Trump's values. 'He was deplorable before being deplorable was cool,' she said, referring to the derogatory term that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton used to describe Trump supporters, which Trump voters have since worn as a badge of honor."

Politico (9/21, Lima, Isenstadt, 3.6M) reported that Palin was joined at the rally by Sebastian Gorka, a former assistant to Trump, and both ripped Strange "as too swampy for Washington while hailing" Moore. The pair "cast Strange as the 'swamp' personified. The scathing assessment struck a sharp contrast to Trump, who has come out strongly in favor of Strange in recent weeks. Despite the president's endorsement, Palin and Gorka characterized Moore's" candidacy "as part of the realization of Trump's campaign promise to 'drain the swamp' in Washington." Breitbart (9/21, Lee, 2.42M) reported that Palin "told the crowd that if Moore wins on Tuesday, 'he's going to be an inspiration for the rest of the country' and motivate other grassroots candidates to 'rise up and take on their own Swamp creatures in their own states.""

Alabama Tea Party Group Backs Moore. Breitbart (9/21, Kew, 2.42M) reported, "The Tea Party group Alabama Patriots" is backing Moore. In a Thursday statement, the group said, "In these trying times, we believe GOD has provided men of honor and integrity to stand in the gap for our beloved Alabama and our Christian nation. Judge Roy Moore is the man to replace our friend and fellow Patriot Jeff Sessions as the next United States Senator from Alabama."



The Hill: Moore "Appears" To Oppose GOP Healthcare Bill. Meanwhile, The Hill (9/21, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that Moore "appears to be against the GOP's latest effort to repeal and replace ObamaCare, a decision that would widen the rift between the possible senator and Senate Republican leadership. When asked whether Moore would vote for the bill, nicknamed for the two Senators spearheading the push, a campaign spokesperson told MSNBC that 'If Graham/Cassidy is anything less than a full repeal, Judge Moore will not vote for it." The Hill added that it "confirmed Moore's stance with his campaign, but Moore's spokeswoman did not respond to a request to elaborate as to whether Moore believes Graham-Cassidy qualifies as a 'full repeal."

In 2005, Moore Said, "Homosexual Conduct Should Be Illegal." On its website, CNN (9/21, McDermott, Kaczynski, 33.59M) reported that Moore "said in a 2005 interview that he believes 'homosexual conduct' should be illegal." CNN said that during "an interview with liberal commentator Bill Press on C-SPAN2's After Words," Moore was asked "if he believed homosexual conduct should still be illegal after the 2003 landmark Supreme Court decision in Lawrence v. Texas that struck down a state law banning sodomy, rendering similar laws across the country unconstitutional." After a bit of back and forth, Moore replied, "Homosexual conduct should be illegal, yes."

Drawing from the CNN story, The Hill (9/21, Beavers, 1.68M) reported that Moore "compared same-sex intercourse to bestiality in the interview after being asked if the government should prohibit gay sex if done so in private quarters. 'Just because it's done behind closed doors, it can still be prohibited by state law. Do you know that bestiality, the relationship between man and beast, is prohibited in every state?' Moore asked Press. 'Did I ask you about having sex with a cow?' Press asked in return, to which Moore eventually called it 'the same thing.'"

FOX NEWS POLL: DEMOCRAT MURPHY LEADS GUADAGNO 42%-29%. NJ News (9/21, Johnson, 1.21M) reports that a Fox News poll of 804 New Jersey voters, taken Sept. 17-19, shows ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) leading Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R) 42%-29% in this fall's race to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie; 19% were undecided. NJ News adds, "Other polls in the race have shown Murphy up by at least 20 percentage points – including a Quinnipiac University survey from last week showing him with a 25-point lead. Past surveys have also shown Murphy nabbing at least 50 percent of the electorate."

Politico Analyses: Christie Undermining Guadagno Bid. Under the headline "Christie Undermines LG's Campaign To Succeed Him," Politico (9/21, Hutchins, 3.6M) reported that Christie "has had a contentious relationship with" Guadagno "as she runs to succeed him," with the pair squabbling "over Christie's decision to raise the state's gasoline tax, to spend \$300 million renovating the Statehouse and to sit with his family on a shuttered state beach in the middle of a government shutdown. Now, Christie is casting doubt on a central plank of Guadagno's platform: That an audit of state government could find some \$1 billion in savings and pay for much of her plan to reduce property taxes." Christie told Politico, "I just fundamentally disagree with her on that. It's not there." Politico added, "In recent months, Christie has embraced numerous opportunities to tweak Guadagno" and "has yet to appear at any" of her "campaign events," though he "has put in some work behind the scenes."

Democratic PAC's TV Ad Ties Guadagno To Christie. NJ News (9/21, Johnson, 1.21M) reports that Our New Jersey, a PAC backed by the Democratic Governors Association, on Thursday "launched its first television ad" of the contest – a spot tying Guadagno to the "unpopular" Christie. The ad "calls Guadagno 'Christie's hand-picked successor' and shows the two pictured together throughout the years." Guadagno, says NJ News, "has tried to distance herself from Christie in the race."

BLACKPAC TO SPEND \$1.1 MILLION TO MOBILIZE BLACK VOTERS AHEAD OF VIRGINIA ELECTION. The Washington Post (9/21, Nirappil, 10.38M) reports that Black Progressive Action Coalition (BlackPAC), which "mobilized black voters on behalf of Hillary Clinton in November," is planning "to spend more than \$1 million in Virginia to do similar work to support Democrats ahead of" this fall's race to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, in which Ed Gillespie (R) is battling Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D). The group "said it plans to spend \$600,000 on voter education, including 100 paid



canvassers, to impress on African Americans the importance of casting a ballot to fight racism, end voter suppression and create good-paying jobs. An affiliated political action committee plans to spend \$500,000 on mailers and digital ads targeting black voters." The Post adds that black "voters are feeling anxious in the wake of President Trump's election and the violent white nationalist rally in August around a Confederate monument in Charlottesville, said organizers."

FLAKE SAYS HE NO PLANS TO LEAVE GOP AND RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT. The Washington Times (9/21, Persons, 541K) reports that during a Wednesday appearance on MSNBC, Sen. Jeff Flake, who faces reelection next year, said "that he has no plans to leave the Republican Party despite lagging poll numbers." Said Flake, "[In] off year polls...incumbents are always down. It's not that they're inaccurate, they're probably accurate. It's just they're not very relevant right now." Responding to a question about whether "he would consider leaving his party to run as an independent," Flake said, "I'm a Republican. I've been a lifelong Republican, and I think I'll stay one." Flake, who's facing a primary challenge from ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward, "wrote a book earlier this year titled 'Conscience of a Conservative,' in which he slammed President Trump and his party for moving away from conservative ideals."

DEMOCRAT DONNELLY TO ATTEND PENCE'S EVENT IN INDIANA TODAY. USA Today (9/21, Groppe, 8.62M) reports that Sen. Joe Donnelly, "who has been targeted by the Trump administration as a potential Democratic supporter of an overhaul of the tax code, will attend Vice President Pence's visit to Anderson [Indiana] Friday to talk taxes, the White House announced Thursday." USA Today adds that President Trump also "is expected to visit Indiana next week. Donnelly is the reason." While Donnelly "votes with his party most of the time, he's willing to cross party lines more often than most Democrats." The report doesn't mention it, but Donnelly is also a top GOP target in next year's election.

POLL: CASEY JOB-APPROVAL RATING UNDERWATER, BARLETTA LARGELY UNKNOWN. The Pottsville (PA) Republican Herald (9/21, Krawczeniuk, 64K) reported that in a Franklin & Marshall College poll of 398 Pennsylvania voters, taken Sept. 13-18, 37% of those surveyed said Sen. Bob Casey – who faces reelection next year – is "doing a good or excellent job" in Congress, while 42% said he's "doing a fair or poor job." However, 45% said they viewed Casey favorably, while just 24% said they had an unfavorable view of the Democrat. Meanwhile, Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), one of several Republicans seeking to take on Casey in 2018, "remains largely unknown among state voters, despite years in the spotlight as an opponent of illegal immigration." Among those polled, Barletta "is viewed favorably by about 15 percent, unfavorably by about 9 percent and unknown or uncertain in the minds of about 76 percent." The poll didn't test the other GOP hopefuls.

DCCC TROUNCES NRCC IN AUGUST FUNDRAISING FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT MONTH. The Washington Times (9/21, Persons, 541K) reports that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee "trounced" the National Republican Congressional Committee in "August fundraising totals for the fourth consecutive month." The DCCC collected "just over \$6 million, while the" NRCC "raised \$3.8 million for the month." The NRCC has "\$36.3 million cash on hand...while Democrats have \$24.8 million." The Times adds, "The DCCC has raised \$72.4 million so far this year while Republicans have \$67.7 million."

USA TODAY: MICHIGAN CANDIDATE MAY SHOW DEMOCRATS HOW TO WIN IN MIDWESTERN TRUMP STATES. Under the headline "Michigan Candidate Tests Whether Democrats Can Reclaim Midwest From Trump And GOP," USA Today (9/21, Przybyla, 8.62M) profiles ex-state Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer (D), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Gov. Rick Snyder, writing that she "says she's offering a progressive Democratic alternative to President Trump's 2016 populist pledge to bring back US jobs. Whether Michigan voters like her message will help shape the future of the national Democratic Party." Whitmer, who faces several other candidates in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, is "making a direct appeal to the same working-class voters who put Trump in the White House because he promised to bring back the manufacturing jobs that once made Detroit a thriving middle-class metropolis. In contrast, Whitmer is touting a new era of green energy, skilled trade and water management jobs, with Michigan lakes possessing 20% of the world's fresh water."



CUOMO HAS SCHEDULED FUNDRAISERS ACROSS US AHEAD OF REELECTION RUN. The Wall Street Journal (9/21, Orden, Vilensky, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that as he prepares for reelection next year, the campaign of Gov. Andrew Cuomo has sent his supporters a note detailing his plans for a busy schedule of fundraiser through the end of 2017. While the Democrat has about \$25 million banked for his reelection race, says the Journal, Cuomo plans a number of fundraising events across the country to further boost his campaign coffers.

DEMOCRAT WOLF'S JOB-APPROVAL RATING IN NEGATIVE TERRITORY AHEAD OF 2018 REELECTION RACE. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (9/21, Micek, 553K) reported that in a Franklin & Marshall College poll of 398 Pennsylvania voters, taken Sept. 13-18, 54% of those surveyed said that Gov. Tom Wolf "is doing a fair or poor job of managing the state," while 38% said he's "doing a good or excellent job." Wolf, said the Patriot-News, is facing "what's likely to be a bruising 2018 general election campaign." However, the poll also shows that "most Pennsylvanians have never heard of state Sen. Scott Wagner," one of two announced GOP challengers to Wolf. In the poll, "fully 85 percent of those surveyed said they were undecided, or didn't know enough, about Wagner to form an opinion either way." The survey didn't test the other GOP challenger, businessman Paul Mango.

SOURCE SAYS O'DONNELL MELTDOWN MAY HAVE BEEN LEAKED ON PURPOSE. Page Six (9/21, Coleman, 455K) reports sources connected with the leak of footage published Wednesday by Mediaite showing MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell "raging at staff" told Page Six the video "was slipped to the site as a broadcast-quality digital clip – and that only a handful of people are believed to be capable of accessing and transmitting such a file." Multiple sources say "O'Donnell angered NBC honcho Andy Lack – who also oversees MSNBC – in May by tweeting to fans about his contract negotiations," and one source said "that the small number of people with access to the clip suggest it was either leaked or authorized by 'someone at a senior level."

MEGYN KELLY: NEW MORNING SHOW WILL BE "NEWSY" AND "TALKY." The New York Times (9/21, Koblin, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Megyn Kelly during an interview with the Times described her new NBC morning show "Megyn Kelly Today," which starts Monday at 9 a.m., as "newsy" and "talky." Kelly said, "Hoda and Kathie Lee love wine. ... The 'Today' show is mostly coffee. I would say if you had to put a drink on my show, it would be a mimosa. There's stuff that's a little naughty. Stuff in there that's good for you. Some stuff in there that's fun and sweet."

WSJOURNAL: COURTS DEFEND RIGHT TO WORK LEGISLATION. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/21, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) writes that the West Virginia Supreme Court and Wisconsin's District Three Court of Appeals both made recent decisions defending their states' right-towork legislation in what the Journal describes as the courts' shooting down of unions' legal campaign to save coerced dues.

WPOST: ST. LOUIS CASE IS RESULT OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT "REFUSING TO RISE" TO TASK. The Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) argues in an editorial that, although the "specifics" of the case against former St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley for the shooting death of Anthony Lamar Smith "are unique...the questions it raises about racial bias in policing are grindingly familiar." The verdict "demonstrates how hard it is for prosecutors to successfully bring cases against police officers." Recent allegations that police co-opted "a slogan often adopted by protesters of police violence sends a signal to black St. Louisans that law enforcement views them as adversaries, rather than as a community deserving protection." The Post argues "the facts as they stand in St. Louis are more than enough to merit federal review of the city's police force," but Attorney General Sessions – in his "disdain for police reform" – has ordered the Justice Department to "roll back a program designed to assist local law enforcement with reforms." The Post concludes, "Stockley's case is one more reminder of how much is lost under a Justice Department that refuses to rise to the task."

OHIO EDITOR: "TRUMP SUPPORTER SYNDROME...IS PERFECTLY NORMAL BEHAVIOR." In a Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) op-ed, Gary Abernathy, publisher and editor of the Hillsboro, Ohio Times-Gazette, discusses what he says is a "warning we've been hearing about [President] Trump and anyone associated with him since the campaign. Trump and friends cannot be treated like human beings



because doing so will 'normalize' them. Translation: The anti-Trump citizenry is 'normal,' while Trump and millions of Americans who support him are 'abnormal.'" Abernathy adds, "We can all only hope that in a civilized world, society will become so tolerant as to recognize that Trump Supporter Syndrome (TSS) is not an illness at all. It is perfectly normal behavior that is merely misunderstood by those who do not share it. Those with TSS should be loved and accepted, not ostracized and shunned."

PROFESSOR: FEINSTEIN IS NOT AN ANTI-CATHOLIC BIGOT FOR QUESTIONING JUDGE'S "DOGMA." In a Washington Post (9/21, 10.38M) op-ed, Boston College theology professor Cathleen Kaveny writes that Sen. Dianne Feinsteinis not an "anti-Catholic bigot" for recently saying "dogma lives loudly within you" to Amy Coney Barrett, one of President Trump's court nominees who is Catholic. Kaveny acknowledges Feinstein's comment was "weird, even mystical," but argues there "is no evidence that Feinstein was motivated by anti-Catholic bias." Feinstein was "striving" to do her "constitutional duty" of vetting a candidate for a life-tenured appointment and wanted to determine how the nominee's religious commitments would affect her decisions.

WSJOURNAL'S MELCHIOR: EMAILS SHOW EVERGREEN STATE HAS RACIAL HOSTILITY ON CAMPUS. In the Wall Street Journal (9/21, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), Jillian Kay Melchior argues that Washington state's Evergreen State College is continuing to demonstrate its race-related madness despite its denials of harboring a racially hostile work environment, as evidenced by internal emails Melchior obtained through the state's Public Records Act. The emails show faculty and some students made accusations of racism toward others with no evidence and reveal several faculty and students were concerned about a hostile campus environment.

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 2 Oct 2017 12:15:33 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR MONDAY, OCT. 2,

2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR MONDAY, OCT. 2, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

OKLAHOMA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER WITHDRAWS REQUEST FOR FEDERAL WAIVER. The Washington Examiner (9/29, King, 465K) reported Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner Terry Cline wrote a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services withdrawing the state's request for a federal waiver, because HHS had taken too long to respond. The article reports that the Oklahoma state government and the federal government had "reached an agreement that the waiver would be approved" on September 25, but the waiver was not approved.

The Hill (9/29, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that the letter said in part, "The lack of timely waiver approval will prevent thousands of Oklahomans from realizing the benefits of significantly lower insurance premiums in 2018."

The Oklahoman (9/30, Wingerter, 443K) also covered the story.

Former CMS Head Accuses President Trump Of "Purposely Raising" Premiums To Make ACA "Implode." The Hill (9/30, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that in response to the news from Oklahoma, Andy Slavitt, the former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, tweeted that President Trump was "purposely raising" premiums as part of his plan to make the Affordable Care Act "implode."

NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

+ HHS Secretary Tom Price Resigns Over Use Of Private Jets.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

+ Congress Allows CHIP To Expire.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + FDA, Pharmaceutical Industry Trying To Avoid Drug Shortages After Hurricane Devastates Puerto Rico.
- + HHS Report Finds FDA Does Not Address 20 Percent Of Detected Food Safety Violations.
- + FDA Issues Final Guidance For Emerging Technology Program.
- + Brexit Could Make US A Destination For Medication Access.
- + AmerisourceBergen To Pay \$260 Million After Pleading Guilty To Scheme That Put Cancer Patients' Health At Risk.
- + Biotech Stocks Drop After FDA Makes Adverse Events Reporting System More Accessible.
- + HHS Spokesman Says Federal Exchange Downtime Will Be Comparable To Last Year's Open Enrollment.
- + Report: Replacing Faulty Heart Devices Costs Medicare \$1.5 Billion Over 10 Years.
- + Senate Republicans Release New Budget Resolution Focused On Tax Cuts Rather Than ACA Repeal.
- + NCI's Lowy And Schiller Earn Research Award Described As "America's Nobel Prize."



- + Macrophages Play A Complex Role In Responding To Infections.
- + NHGRI Introduces Toolkit To Advance Precision Medicine At Smaller Hospitals.
- + Administration Delays Price-Gouging Rule For Drug Companies.
- + HHS Funds Ebola Vaccines, Drugs.
- + Los Angeles Experiencing Surge In West Nile Virus Cases.
- + USPSTF Draft Recommends Screening With HrHPV Without Cytology.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + So-Called "Little Lobbyists" Impacted Healthcare Debate.
- + Republican Voters Upset With Congress Over Failure To Repeal ACA.
- + ACA Navigators Report Facing Technical Glitches In Certification Course.
- + Sen. Cassidy Raising Funds With Promise To Repeal And Replace The ACA.
- + The Hill Outlines How Republicans Failed To Repeal The ACA This Year.
- + Idaho Premiums To Increase 27% On Average On State Exchange.
- + Sen. Cruz Says US Shouldn't "Bail Out" Health Insurance Companies.
- + House Majority Leader Criticizes Republican Senators Who Voted Against Repealing ACA.
- + Wall Street Journal Columnist Says Republicans Will Have To Work With Democrats To Pass Healthcare Legislation.
- + Republicans Will Continue Push For Healthcare Reform.
- + Republicans' Future ACA Repeal Proposals Will Likely Give States More Flexibility, Less Funding.
- + HHS Withdraws From Meetings To Promote Enrollment In Federal Exchange In Mississippi.
- + Technology Company To Pay \$264,000 For Data Breach On Vermont Health Insurance Exchange.
- + Premiums For Idaho Exchange Plans To Increase By 27% On Average.
- + Premiums For Washington Exchange Plans To Increase 24% On Average.
- + Republicans Release Budget Proposal For Tax Reform, Delaying Another Healthcare Effort.
- + Democrats Plan To Emphasize GOP Healthcare Agenda In 2018 Mid-Term Elections.
- + Democratic Candidates For Massachusetts Governor Support Single-Payer Healthcare.
- + Three Insurers Plan To Continue To Offer Health Coverage In Tennessee.
- + Richmond, Virginia Residents Will Have Just One Insurer On The Individual Marketplace.
- + Americans Facing Premium Increases Under ACA.
- + Minnesotans Faced With "Narrow Networks" On Individual Market Insurance Plans.
- + Anthem, Hartford HealthCare Fail To Reach Agreement On New Contract.
- + Republicans, Democrats May Agree On Some Healthcare Issues.
- + Analysis: Trump's Plan For Insurance Across State Lines Could Mean Fewer Consumer Protections.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + NBC Spotlights Human Cost OF Opioid Crisis.
- + Editorial: Drug Abuse Prevention Education Among Eight Ways To Address Opioid Crisis.
- + Alabama Pharmacy Technician Pleads Guilty To Stealing Pain Medication From Cancer Patients.
- + Justice Department Awards Southern Ohio \$3 Million To Combat Opioid Abuse.
- + Time-Release Buprenorphine Could Be A "Game Changer" In Opioid Fight, Researcher Suggests.
- + Minnesota Medical Companies To Hold Public Roundtable On Opioid Alternatives.
- + STAT Interviews Researcher About Potential Of Medical Marijuana To Reduce Opioid Use.
- + Massachusetts Case On Treatment Of Relapse Of Opioid Addict Could Have Policy Implications.
- + Opinion: Taking Opioids Off The Market Is Not The Best Solution.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Massachusetts Attorney General Investigating Addiction Treatment Fraud.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

+ New Hampshire Legislative Committee Tables Acceptance Of \$1.1 Million Federal Grant.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

+ HHS Security Functions Labeled Ineffective By GAO Report.



HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:

- + Illinois Head Start, Early Head Start Programs To Receive \$42 Million.
- + New Hampshire DHHS Says DCYF Staffing Concerns Driven By Growing Caseload.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

+ FDA Proposes Giving Food Manufacturers More Time To Comply With New Nutrition Label Requirements.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Advocacy Group To File For Utah Ballot Initiative To Expand Medicaid.
- + <u>Hawaii Submits Medicaid Waiver Request Seeking Federal Reimbursement For Costs Of Housing</u> Homeless.
- + Montana State Official Says State Has Saved Over \$30 Million From Expanding Medicaid.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + Nobel Prize In Medicine Awarded To Three US-Born Scientists.
- + Blood Test May Detect Cancer In Its Early Stages, Study Suggests.
- + Transgender Man Recovers From Breast Cancer Treatment.
- + Author Claims US Government Tested Radiation On Citizens During Cold War.
- + Critics Say PhRMA's Ad Campaign Misleading In Five Ways.
- + Merck To Halt Development Of New Hepatitis C Medications.
- + Opinion: Parkinson's Disease Research Needs More Funding.
- + Opinion: Colonoscopy Loophole Unfairly Charges Medicare Patients With Polyps.
- + Mother May Face Jail Time For Refusing Court Order To Vaccinate Son.
- + Nasal Flu Vaccine Not Recommended For 2017.
- + Married Researchers On Cutting Edge Of Immunotherapy.
- + Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Needs More NIH Funding, Professor Suggests.
- + Survivorship Programs Are Often Unavailable To Patients In Low-Income Areas.
- + Immunotherapy Shows Promise For Certain Lung Cancers, Researcher Suggests.
- + Medical Tattoos Helping Women With Mastectomies.
- + Kratom Death Casts Doubt On Its Long-Term Legality, Advocates Worry.
- + Dynavax Explores Options For Hepatitis B Vaccine.
- + FDA Approves Fast-Acting Insulin.
- + Judge Denies Request To Block Maryland's Drug Price-Gouging Law.
- + Colorado Bans Edible Marijuana Products Shaped Like Animals, People.
- + People Who Monitor Their Blood Pressure At Home May Have Better Results If They Have Extra Support, Review Suggests.
- + Some People Starting To Question Whether A Hepatitis A Vaccine Shortage Could Be Coming Soon.
- + Physician Expresses Concern About Care Delivered To Transgender Patients Who Are Not Recognizably Dysphoric Or Gender Nonconforming.
- + Expectant Mothers Should Cautiously Limit Intake Of Caffeinated Coffee, Expert Says.
- + Organizations Say There Is No Safe Amount Of Alcohol To Drink While Pregnant.
- + Westminster, Colorado Officially Declares Its Opposition To Conversion Therapy.
- + Autistic Young Adults May Be More Likely To Also Have A Psychiatric Condition, Research Suggests.
- + Experts Concerned That Syphilis Is Still Affecting US Births.
- + Zika-Carrying Mosquito Largely Wiped Out In Puerto Rico By Hurricane Maria, CDC Says.
- + Two Los Angeles County Towns Reaching Out To Homeless Ahead Of Countywide Hepatitis A Outbreak.
- + Power Washing Underway In San Diego To Contain Hepatitis A Outbreak.
- + IDWeek Begins This Week In San Diego.
- + Microbiologist Explains Connections Between Pathogen Virulence And Host Resistance.
- + MERS Virus Tracked To One-Humped Camels.
- + Researcher Aims To Map How Brains Are Affected By Impacts.

NATIONAL NEWS:

+ Trump: Tillerson "Wasting His Time" Talking To North Korea.



- + Trump Blasts Critics Of Administration's Response To Hurricane Maria.
- + Lawsuit Claims Refinery, Chemical Plant Improperly Diverted Flood Waters During Harvey.
- + Most Of Florida Keys Reopen Sunday.
- + After Trump Again Calls To End Protests, Fewer NFL Players Kneel During Anthem.
- + Mulvaney: Taxpayer-Funded Travel May Be Legal But Not "Right."
- + Mnuchin Says Use Of Government Plane For Kentucky Trip Was "Completely Justifiable."
- + At Least 50 Killed, 200 Wounded In Mass Shooting On Las Vegas Strip.
- + Many "Key Witnesses" Have Yet To Speak To Hill Russia Probes.
- + Poll: Republican Moore Leads Jones 50.2%-44.5% In Alabama Senate Race.
- + Bannon Reportedly Supporting Morrisey's Bid To Unseat Manchin.
- + Cohn: Without Bevy Of GOP Retirements, Hard For Democrats To Take House.
- + Corker Stands By Comments On Trump's Competence, Stability.
- + Kasich: If GOP "Can't Be Fixed...I'm Not Going To Be Able To Support The Party."
- + Mandel-Commissioned Poll Shows Him Up Big In Ohio's GOP Senate Primary.
- + WPost Analysis: GOP Hopeful Gillespie Posting Underwhelming Fundraising Numbers.
- + Sanders: "Premature" To Talk About Whether Menendez Should Resign If Convicted.
- + Scalise Discusses Shooting, Recovery.
- + McDaniel Appears To Be Readying For A 2018 Primary Challenge To Wicker.
- + Analysis Finds McSally Is Arizona's "Most Reliable Vote" For Trump Agenda.
- + DFL Faces Challenge In Retaining Seat Of Exiting Walz.
- + Ex-Rep. Grimm Announces GOP Primary Challenge To Donovan.
- + WPost's Rogin Discusses Congressional Bids Of Obama-Era National Security Officials.
- + After Signing Abortion Bill Into Law, Rauner May Face GOP Primary Challenge.
- + News Analyses: Supreme Court Starts New Term With Blockbuster Docket.
- + Demonstrators March For Racial Justice, Black Women In DC.
- + Daily Caller: Chicago Murder Rate Reflects "Ferguson Effect."
- + Scaramucci Says Time In White House Was "Best 11 Days" Of His Life.
- + Economist: Company's Wireless Innovation Impeded By FCC Rules.
- + Law Professor: Anti-KKK Laws May Provide Answer To Campus Censorship.
- + WSJournal: Trump's Latest Court Picks Highlight His Greatest Political Success.
- + WPost: Guggenheim's Decision To Remove Art Represents Challenge To Free Expression.

Leading the News:

HHS SECRETARY TOM PRICE RESIGNS OVER USE OF PRIVATE JETS. Over the weekend, there was extensive television, print and online coverage of HHS Secretary Tom Price's resignation over the controversy caused by his use of private jets at taxpayers' expense. News outlets said the scandal caused by this incident "embarrassed" President Trump, who had promised during his campaign to end wasteful spending in Washington, DC.

ABC World News Tonight (9/29, lead story, 3:45, Muir, 8.45M) reported in its lead story that "we end the week here with the breaking headline from the White House. President Trump demanding the resignation of Tom Price. The secretary of health and human services is out. He'll be replaced at midnight tonight. It comes after spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of your money on luxury jets."

In its lead story, the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/29, lead story, 2:10, Mason, 6.35M) reported, "He embarrassed the President and it cost him his job. Dr. Tom Price was forced to resign today as secretary of health and human services for using high-cost charter flights when cheaper alternatives were available. President Trump had campaigned against wasteful government spending."

NBC Nightly News (9/29, story 3, 2:30, Holt, 8.24M) reported that Price resigned late on Friday "after a firestorm erupted over his use of private planes on the taxpayers' dime. And now, another Cabinet member is under scrutiny for his travel, too."

On its front page, the New York Times (9/29, A1, Baker, Thrush, Haberman, Subscription Publication,



13.56M) reported that Price "resigned under pressure on Friday after racking up at least \$400,000 in travel bills for chartered flights and undermining President Trump's promise to drain the swamp of a corrupt and entitled capital." The article said Price had already earned Trump's displeasure because Republicans had failed to repeal the Affordable Care after months of trying. He "failed to defuse the president's anger by offering regret and a partial reimbursement." Just prior to the announcement about Price's resignation, Trump said, "I'm not happy, O.K.?" He described Price as "'a very good man,' but added that the secretary's offer to pay back the government for just part of the cost of the private flights 'would be unacceptable."

The Washington Post (9/29, A1, Eilperin, Goldstein, Wagner, 10.38M) reported on its front page that Price resigned "amid sharp criticism of his extensive use of taxpayer-funded charter flights, the White House said." The article added that Price stated in his resignation letter that "he regretted 'that the recent events have created a distraction' from the administration's objectives." The White House said that Don J. Wright, acting assistant secretary for health and director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, would be acting HHS Secretary. The piece noted that it remains to be seen who will replace Price, because while CMS Administrator Seema Verma and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb "are well-liked and respected within the White House," they lack "the kind of political experience that many previous secretaries had before taking of the post." The paper said former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) could also be contenders for the position.

USA Today (9/29, Locker, Jackson, 8.62M) reported that Price was "the latest high-ranking official to leave the Trump administration." The article said Price stated "in his resignation letter that he wanted 'to reform a broken health care system, empower patients, reduce regulatory burdens, ensure global health security, and tackle clinical priorities such as the opioids epidemic, serious mental illness and childhood obesity." In response to the news, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), "who criticized Price for leading efforts to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health care law, said he hopes the next secretary will reverse that course." Schumer was quoted as saying, "The mission of the Health and Human Services secretary should be to support Americans' health care, not take it away. ... The next HHS secretary must follow the law when it comes to the Affordable Care Act instead of trying to sabotage it."

On its front page, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/29, A1, Armour, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reported that the criticism over Price's use of private jets occurred at a time when the Trump Administration's attempts to repeal the ACA have ground to a halt. The latest effort collapsed on Tuesday, and GOP lawmakers now have to decide whether to continue attempting to repeal the healthcare law, or work with Democrats to stabilize it. The article added that Verma could be a possible successor to Price. Other possible candidates include former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA), Jindal, Veterans Affairs secretary David Shulkin, and John Fleming, who is currently HHS' deputy assistant secretary for health technology reform.

The AP (9/29, Alonso-Zaldivar, Lemire) reported that Price "became the first member of the president's Cabinet to be pushed out in a turbulent young administration that has seen several high-ranking White House aides ousted." The article said that when Price became HHS Secretary, "Trump touted him as a conservative policy expert who could write a new health care bill to replace the Obama-era Affordable Care Act." Yet, he "became more of a supporting player in the GOP's futile health care campaign, while Vice President Mike Pence took the lead, particularly in dealing with the Senate."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/29, Decker, 4.49M) reported that until Friday, Price had resisted "Democratic calls for his departure – Republicans were mostly mute – following a series of Politico stories reporting he had spent more than \$400,000 on private domestic travel in recent months." He spent an additional \$500,000 "on military aircraft for events in Europe, Africa and Asia."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/29, Edney, 4.52M) reported that following Price's resignation, White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney "issued a memo ordering government agencies to seek approval from Chief of Staff John Kelly before most travel on government-owned or chartered planes." The article said Price' departure "could distract from other administration priorities like tax reform," as well as "raise more



questions about other agency heads who have taken taxpayer-funded trips on private aircraft, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt...and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." The piece added that Price's tenure at HHS "was bracketed by questions about his conduct, starting with trading of stock in health-care companies and ending with the plane trips."

<u>Fox News</u> (9/29, Pappas, 12.87M) reported on its website that Price "was a key figure in the Trump administration's push to overhaul ObamaCare." The article added that although "Trump indicates he's going to keep fighting for a bill, the latest Senate Republican legislation collapsed on Tuesday for lack of support, after a prior effort collapsed over the summer."

Reuters (9/29, Holland) quoted Price as saying in his resignation letter, "I have spent forty years both as a doctor and public servant putting people first. I regret that the recent events have created a distraction from these important objectives."

The Washington Times (9/29, Boyer, Howell, 541K) reported that House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) lamented Price's departure, saying, "He has spent his entire adult life fighting for others, first as a physician and then as a legislator and public servant." Ryan added, "He was a leader in the House and a superb health secretary. His vision and hard work were vital to the House's success passing our health care legislation. I will always be grateful for Tom's service to this country and, above all, his continued friendship." In contrast, "Democrats said the resignation shows that Mr. Trump isn't living up to his promise to 'drain the swamp' in Washington, and called on the GOP to wage more effective oversight on the administration."

Also covering the story were ABC News (9/29, Kelsey, 2.83M), CBS News (9/29, Watson, 4.42M), NBC News (9/29, Vitali, 3.46M), CNN Inside Politics (10/1, 2.14M), CNN's The Lead (9/29, 1.71M), Fox News Sunday (10/1, 2.7M), Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (10/1, 3.24M), the New York Times (10/2, Burns, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), the AP (9/30, Colvin), The Hill (9/29, Hellmann, Carter, 1.68M), the Huffington Post (9/29, 5.74M), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (9/29, Dupree, 1.16M), NPR (9/29, kodjak, 2.4M), U.S. News & World Report (9/29, Levy, 1.73M), Newsweek (9/29, Kutner, 991K), The Atlantic (9/30, Graham, 1.64M), Reuters (9/29, Beech), the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (10/1, Galloway, 1.16M), the Washington Examiner (9/29, Weaver, 465K), the Las Vegas Review-Journal (9/29, Saunders, 458K), the New York Post (9/29, Fredericks, 4.31M), the Washington Times (10/1, Swoyer, Howell, Boyer, 541K), the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/29, Hart, 519K), the Daily Caller (10/1, Crowe, 521K), Vox (9/29, Scott, 1.54M), the Washington Examiner (9/29, King, 465K), AFP (9/29), Roll Call (9/29, Bennett, 134K), Modern Healthcare (9/29, Weinstock, Subscription Publication, 238K), and Kaiser Health News (9/29, Rovner).

Price's Exit Creates More Challenges For Republicans As They Attempt To Repeal ACA. The AP (9/30, Colvin, Alonso-Zaldivar) reported that Price's exit "is yet another self-inflicted blow for Republicans wishing to put their own stamp on health care — and the latest distraction for a White House struggling to advance its agenda after months of turmoil." The article said his departure "makes it even more unlikely that Republicans will be able to deliver on their promise to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's law, even though they control the White House and both chambers of Congress." Indeed, one healthcare expert stated, "I think health care is a dead letter through the next election."

Price's Efforts To "Sabotage" ACA Highlighted. MSNBC's All In (9/29, 1.65M) reported on former HHS Secretary Tom Price's efforts to "sabotage" the Affordable Care Act. For instance, he reduced the open enrollment period by 50 percent, cut funding for ACA advertising by 90 percent, and reduced grants to ACA navigators by about 40 percent. In addition, HHS "is shutting down HealthCare.gov nearly every Sunday during open enrollment for 12 hours at a time," and "regional representatives will not be able to participate in state open enrollment events."

Price Reportedly Never Played A Significant Role In ACA Repeal Efforts. Politico (9/29, Cancryn, 3.6M) reported that former HHS Secretary Tom Price was nominated by President Trump "because he was a doctor and a rising star on Capitol Hill who could drive the Obamacare repeal effort." However, during his tenure, Price "not only misread the politics of repeal, he failed to assert himself as a power



player on the No. 1 priority of his party, according to administration officials, lobbyists and state and federal officials involved in the repeal effort." The article added that Price "was sidelined from the administration's efforts to sell lawmakers on GOP repeal proposals," and "he never developed a close relationship with President Trump."

Trump Said To Have Lost Faith In Price Months Ago, Before The Scandal Over His Use Of Private Jets. Politico (9/29, Restuccia, Dawsey, Diamond, 3.6M) reported that the use of private jets was the immediate cause of Price's "downfall," yet "his demise was months in the making, as the president continued to lose trust in the Health and Human Services secretary who rarely attended Oval Office strategy meetings," and "had little sway or influence on Capitol Hill." The article said Trump also blamed Price for the failure of ACA repeal efforts. The piece added, "Price's lack of goodwill with Trump and other senior administration officials ultimately doomed his changes of survival, even though many administration officials believed the furor would blow over when news first broke that Price spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on private jets."

Pelosi Says Price Should Not Have Been Selected As HHS Secretary "In The First Place." The Hill (9/29, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that in response to the news about Price's resignation, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) criticized the Trump Administration for hiring Price at all. Pelosi stated, "Secretary Price should never have been in this role in the first place. ... The American people deserve a Secretary of Health and Human Services who believes in healthcare for all Americans." She added, "It's time for this Administration to work with Democrats to improve and update the Affordable Care Act."

Dems Say Next HHS Secretary Should Not Engage In ACA "Sabotage." The Washington Examiner (9/29, King, 465K) reported that Democrats are already indicating that "the stewardship of Obamacare will be a major issue in the confirmation of the next secretary of Health and Human Services." On Friday, several of them "alluded to what they are looking for in the next secretary." For instance, Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) said, "It is critical that the next secretary of Health and Human Services commits to immediately dropping the Trump administration's attempts to sabotage healthcare markets." Meanwhile, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) tweeted that Trump should "nominate someone who is looking out for the taxpayers & the country." The piece added that CMS Administrator Seema Verma and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb are possible candidates for Price's job.

Rep. Schiff Mocks Price. The Hill (9/29, Carter, 1.68M) reported that on Friday, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) mocked Price, saying he "committed 'the one unpardonable sin' in President Trump's world before his resignation." Schiff said, "Tom Price committed the one unpardonable sin in Trump's world: Being rich, but not rich enough to own his own private jet."

"Saturday Night Live" Ridicules Price. The Hill (10/1, Balluck, 1.68M) reports in its "In The Know" blog that during its season premiere, "Saturday Night Live" ridiculed Price "over his use of private jets for official business." Cast member Colin Jost said, "Yeah, that's cool you resigned an all. But how 'bout you pay us back the money? You can't walk into a store and do a million dollars worth of damage and then be like, 'OK, I get it. I'll leave."

Mnuchin Declines To Comment On Price's Resignation. The Hill (10/1, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reports that during an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin "refused to comment on former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price's resignation, but said the American people 'deserved to know' how the government is spending their money."

Deregulation In Healthcare Industry Expected To Continue Despite Price's Resignation. Modern Healthcare (9/30, Weinstock, Subscription Publication, 238K) reported that there is little expectation that the Trump Administration will "dial back" its efforts to reduce regulations in the healthcare industry, but "Price's resignation Friday as HHS secretary could, at least momentarily, force agency heads to tap the brakes on any bold new policies." One expert stated, "It clearly puts everything in slow motion."

Several Years Ago, Price Criticized Dems For Attempting To Allocate Funding For Military And Private Aircraft. The Huffington Post (9/29, D'Angelo, 5.74M) reported that Price "once railed against



money spent for non-commercial aircraft by members of Congress." During a 2009 interview with CNBC, Price "blasted House Democrats for attempting to spend \$550 million on eight aircraft for use by lawmakers and senior government officials." In addition, he opposed "a smaller request of \$220 million, enough to purchase a Gulfstream and three Boeing 737s to add to an executive jet fleet maintained by the Air Force."

Other Cabinet Members Engaging In Behaviors Trump Promised To Curb. The Washington Post (9/29, Gearan, 10.38M) reported that "beyond the eye-roll irony of the scandal enveloping a Republican politician who promoted himself as a penny-pinching budget hawk, Price is not the only example of waste, carelessness or entitlement in an administration that pledged to speak for the little guy." Several "other Cabinet officials have taken unusual chartered or military air trips on the public dime." These include "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's \$25,000 secure phone booth and the unauthorized use of private email by White House adviser Jared Kushner and others – a development that follows a campaign where Trump lambasted Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email system when serving as secretary of State."

Democrats Want "Full Accounting" Of Cabinet Members' Travel Expenses. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (10/1, Dupree, 1.16M) reports that in the wake of Price's resignation, congressional Democrats are demanding "a full accounting of travel expenses by other members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet, using the dust up to bolster their attacks on members of the Trump Administration." For instance, Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) said, "It's time for full accountability on how the Jet Set Cabinet has spent our tax dollars." Meanwhile, Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) stated, "I am glad that Tom Price has resigned. … Just another example of what appears to be serious ethical failings throughout the Administration."

Don Wright Profiled. USA Today (9/30, Collins, 8.62M) reported that President Trump has designated Don Wright, the deputy assistant secretary for health and director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, as acting HHS Secretary. The article described Wright as "a family medicine physician who embarked on a career in the federal government 14 years ago under then-President George W. Bush and has held a number of senior executive roles." His "public service career has focused broadly on public health, occupational health and health policy, as well as health care quality, disease prevention and health promotion, according to his LinkedIn."

Newsweek (9/29, Valencia, 991K) reported that Wright joined HHS in 2007, and "has moved up the ladder since those Bush administration days. In 2009, he became deputy assistant secretary for health care quality, and in 2012, he was named deputy assistant secretary and director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, where he was until Friday's announcement."

Trump's Choice For Price's Successor Could Indicate How He Wants To Proceed On Healthcare. The New York Times (9/30, Baker, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reported that the resignation of Tom Price as HHS Secretary gives President Trump a chance for "a turning point in a health care debate that has polarized Washington, as he faces a choice of working with Democrats to fix the current system or continuing his so-far failed efforts to dismantle" the ACA. According to the Times, "Trump's decision on a successor could be an opportunity to shift the debate, but he faces the prospect of an arduous confirmation battle." The Times examined the most likely options and considered how each might fare in confirmation hearings. Top candidates to replace Price include CMS Administrator Seema Verma and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb. The piece said that if Verma is selected, this would indicate that Trump "wants to continue vigorous opposition to the Affordable Care Act." For his part, "Gottlieb has more experience in Washington and was seen at the time of his appointment as the more moderate of candidates being considered."

The New York Post (9/30, Connelly, 4.31M) reported that Verma is the "frontrunner" to replace Price. In her current post, she "is responsible for administering the Affordable Care Act," and she "played a leading role for the White House in efforts to repeal the law this year, including the attempt that failed last week." The piece said Verma "is reportedly atop the short list for candidates to take over the sprawling department, which has a \$1 trillion budget, 80,000 employees and jurisdiction over a swath of health care



issues."

CNBC's Closing Bell (9/29, 159K) reported that Gottlieb is one of the people being considered as a replacement for Price. The piece said Gottlieb is perceived "as probably one of the most productive FDA commissioners we've seen in a long time." The segment mentioned that Gottlieb "did a high-profile tobacco move" by proposing "to limit the amount of nicotine that can go into cigarettes and that had a big impact." Gottlieb was also described as "a [former] scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, an investor" who has "been very strong on these managerial, administrative changes at FDA, which needs them. He would be a fabulous pick."

<u>Politico</u> (9/29, Kenen, 3.6M) reported that several names are being proposed as possible replacements for Price. Verma and Gottlieb were mentioned, as well former Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), Dr. Mehmet Oz, Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI), and former Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI).

Also covering the story were the <u>AP</u> (9/30, Alonso-Zaldivar), the <u>New York Daily News</u> (10/1, Otis, 3.61M) and the <u>Daily Intelligencer</u> (NY) (9/29, Kilgore, 519K).

Price's Departure Reportedly Leaves "A Hole" In Trump's Health Policy Leadership. Bloomberg News (9/30, Edney, 4.52M) reported that Price's resignation as HHS Secretary "has cost President Donald Trump his first Cabinet member, left a hole in health policy leadership amid the ongoing fight over Obamacare and has the White House reassessing its travel policies." The article said the President has yet to indicate "who will take over one of the U.S.'s largest government agencies. One thing is certain: the job description will include pushing harder to help the GOP in its so-far fruitless efforts to repeal Obamacare." The piece added that "obvious candidates" to replace price include CMS Administrator Seema Verma, "who is directly responsible for running much of the Affordable Care Act," and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, "who has implemented several programs on drug prices and on modernizing the agency."

The Hill (9/29, Roubein, Hellmann, 1.68M) also covered the story.

More Commentary. The Washington Post (9/30, 10.38M) editorialized that the resignation of Tom Price as HHS Secretary has "ended an inglorious and brief tenure," and called on President Trump to "find someone less motivated by ideology, shift gears and work to actually improve health care for all Americans." The Post argued that "Trump suddenly has a new opportunity for a win on health care. He should take full advantage."

Several letters to the editor of the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/29, 10.38M) criticized Price for using private jets at taxpayer's expense. One of them stated, "The only reason that now-former health and human services secretary Tom Price said he would pay for his own private charter plane seat is that he got caught. Mr. Price talked about not being 'sensitive enough to my concern for the taxpayer.' Where was his "sensitivity" as he fed at the public trough?"

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/29, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) said in an editorial that for President Trump, loyalty goes only one way: towards him, but not to members of his cabinet, and former HHS Secretary Tom Price was the most recent person to find this out. The paper added that Price resigned before Trump could fire him.

Chris Cillizza wrote in a <u>CNN</u> (9/29, 33.59M) op-ed that Price was forced to resign "not because of the more than two dozen private flights he took at taxpayer expense," but "because he violated Trump's first principle: Never, ever make the boss look bad – especially in the press." Cillizza added, "Price had become a major distraction for Trump and his White House."

Ford Vox, a physician, wrote in a <u>CNN</u> (9/29, 33.59M) commentary that Price resigned over the "scandal, given how it entirely undercut his political persona as a fiscal conservative." Yet, "Price's mismanagement of taxpayer resources for official travel pales in comparison to his active sabotage of Obamacare, a program it was his duty to administer carefully so long as it remains the law of the land."



Contributor Nell Minow wrote in the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/30, 5.74M) that since Politico broke the story about Price's use of private jets, "Trump's cabinet members have revealed a stunningly widespread practice of bypassing commercial airlines, often for trips with a personal, non-government component." Minow went on to discuss the use of private jets by other cabinet members, including Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (10/1, 5.11M) piece that in light of Price's resignation, "the effort to improve the individual health insurance market under the Affordable Care Act may gain bipartisan momentum." Japsen argues, "Price was an obstacle to stabilizing the ACA's exchanges and spent years while in Congress on unsuccessful repeals of the law." His "acting replacement, Dr. Don Wright, is seen as an establishment figure having worked for former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama in various administrative health roles."

Contributor Bruce Japsen wrote in a <u>Forbes</u> (9/29, 5.11M) piece that just one day before he resigned, "Price was taking steps to save himself amid the private jet scandal that included taking trips between Washington and Philadelphia that otherwise could have been paid for with a \$100 bus ticket." However, that "wasn't enough. The White House said in a statement Friday afternoon that Price 'offered his resignation earlier today and the president accepted."

Amy Davidson Sorkin asked in a New Yorker (9/29, 2.05M) op-ed, "At what point did Tom Price, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who was forced to resign on Friday after a series of Politico stories on his flights on private-charter and military planes, become too much for Donald Trump?" Sorkin suggested it was probably "when Price proved inept at bluffing his way out of a scandal."

Olivia Nuzzi wrote in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (9/30, 519K) that the downfall "of Price is a rare example of a violation of the rules by an administration official having immediate consequences, and a rarer example of Trump appearing mindful of optics in a traditional sense." Nuzzi added that Trump "even used the term himself: 'I don't like the optics,' he remarked on Friday afternoon, before Price's fate was known." Trump "said it 'would be unacceptable' for Price to only partially reimburse the government for his flights, like he had announced he planned to."

Scott Greer wrote in the <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/29, 521K) that Price's main task "for the White House was to get an Obamacare repeal passed through Congress – a job he failed miserably at." Yet, "that failure is now likely going to be overshadowed by his extensive misuse of public money."

The <u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> (9/29, 668K) said in an editorial, "Few things are as infuriating to Americans as government officials blithely wasting taxpayers' money to make their own lives more comfortable." The paper added that when Politico revealed "the total cost to taxpayers of his travel had topped \$1 million since May, Price's resignation on Friday became inevitable."

Timothy P. Carney wrote in an op-ed for the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/29, 465K) that Price's downfall "should not primarily be remembered as the story of a man who luxuriated wastefully on the taxpayer dime. It's mostly about a man we couldn't trust." He added, "It was, ironically, when Price fessed up, and pledged to pay for his seat on the charter jets that his untrustworthiness became so glaring."

Philip Wegmann wrote in an op-ed for the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/29, 465K) that President Trump "just accepted the resignation of disgraced Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. It's the right thing to do, and it's a great move." Wegmann further argued that "by cutting Price, Trump has shown a leadership that [President] Obama never would."

The Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (10/1, 235K) editorializes that "Tom Price did not deserve Senate confirmation to head the Department of Health and Human Services" because of the "troubling ethical questions" while serving as a legislator. The paper adds that President Trump "has ignored established ethical practices" and "remains tied to his businesses, in position to benefit financially from his



presidency."

The Secretary in the News:

CONGRESS ALLOWS CHIP TO EXPIRE. The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/1, Strauss, 10.38M) reports that "Congress just allowed the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provided low-cost health insurance to 9 million children, to expire." If Congress fails to act to restore the program, many children will be unable to get routine checkups, immunizations, prescriptions, doctor visits, dental and vision care, inpatient and outpatient care, laboratory and x-ray services, and emergency services. The Post adds that states still have some CHIP money remaining, but several states and DC are expected to run out of funds by the end of this year.

The Hill (10/1, Carter, 1.68M) reports the vast majority of states will run out of funding by March, according to a July report from the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. The Hill adds that a spokesperson for the House Energy and Commerce Committee said bipartisan negotiations continue on a bill to reauthorize CHIP combined with funding for community health centers.

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/1, Bobic, 5.74M) reports and <u>ABC News</u> (9/29, 2.83M) also covered the story.

Opinion: "Congressional Incompetence" Jeopardizes Millions Of Children's Health Insurance. Columnist Michael Hiltzik wrote in the Los Angeles Times (9/29, 4.49M) that children's health advocates have been "worrying" for months that "congressional incompetence would jeopardize the nation's one indisputable healthcare success – the Children's Health Insurance Program, which has reduced the uninsured rate among kids to 5% from 14% over the two decades of its existence." Hiltzik adds, "In today's dysfunctional political environment, even the traditional bipartisan support for CHIP has come apart at the seams." The column mentions that former HHS Secretary Tom Price twice voted against expanding CHIP as a Georgia legislator.

Thousands Of Low-Income Arizona Children Could Lose Insurance. The Arizona Republic (9/29, Alltucker, 968K) reported that because of Congress' failure to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by the September 30 deadline, 22,389 low-income children's health insurance is at risk in Arizona. The children will not immediately lose insurance, but the state could "halt new enrollment if the federal government eliminates funding." The article adds that the House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to consider a CHIP reauthorization next week, but details of the legislation have yet to be released.

Advocates For CHIP In Pennsylvania Await Congress As Deadline Expires. The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (10/1, Olson, 312K) reports that children's health advocates are awaiting action in Congress after a September 30 deadline to approve funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program passed on Saturday. Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) co-sponsored a Senate bill in mid-September to extend the program and was "deeply disappointed" it has not been renewed. Last week, 17 of Pennsylvania's 18 House members signed a letter urging a vote to renew CHIP. Some 176,000 children in Pennsylvania are enrolled in CHIP.

HHS in the News:

FDA, PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY TRYING TO AVOID DRUG SHORTAGES AFTER HURRICANE DEVASTATES PUERTO RICO. The Washington Post (9/29, McGinley, 10.38M) reported the Food and Drug Administration and the pharmaceutical industry are both "stepping up efforts to avert potentially serious drug shortages in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria's assault on Puerto Rico, a major center for pharmaceutical manufacturing." FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb visited the island on Friday "with staff from the Department of Homeland Security" and "was scheduled to meet with the FDA's 100 employees in San Juan and learn more about damage to the island's dozens of drugmaking plants." The agency is particularly concerned about "40 high-priority drugs that are deemed essential," which the agency declined to name. CNN Money (9/29, Isidore, Kopan, Horowitz, 3.59M) reports Gottlieb told reporters that



the drugs in question "are critical medicines" without "therapeutic substitutes."

Puerto Rico Suffering From Post-Hurricane Medicine Shortage. On the CBS Evening News (9/29, story 5, 1:35, Mason, 6.35M), Dr. Jon LaPook reported, "Many people have run out of medicine or lost it in the hurricane, so local doctors are now setting up very special house calls. They're doing checkups at clinics and shelters, then going to get the medicines people need and delivering them to wherever the patients are." LaPook added that "unlike the physical devastation obvious all over the island, the medical devastation is often hidden. ... So a major challenge remains."

The AP (9/30, Fox, Coto) reported that prior to Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico's healthcare system "was already precarious, with a population that is generally sicker, older and poorer than that of the mainland, long waits and a severe shortage of specialists as a result of a decade-long economic recession," but now that the storm has passed, "the plight of overtaxed hospitals and smaller clinics – and health care in general – is one of the most worrying for officials grappling with recovery efforts." The AP adds the Department of Health and Human Services has sent a team to Puerto Rico, while the US Navy "also dispatched the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship that has been deployed during previous disasters such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake."

The Hill (10/1, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that post-hurricane power outages in Puerto Rico are a particular threat to "thousands of people with kidney disease." The article says individuals with kidney disease are at risk since they require "dialysis roughly three times a week or they will die."

Dr. Sanjay Gupta wrote for <u>CNN</u> (9/29, 33.59M) on its website that Puerto Rico has medical supplies, but most are stuck in shipping containers and "until they get to the people who need them, they have little value."

HHS REPORT FINDS FDA DOES NOT ADDRESS 20 PERCENT OF DETECTED FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS. The Washington Post (9/29, Dewey, 10.38M) reported the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General report found that FDA inspectors did not "take action on one of every five serious food-safety risks identified in manufacturing facilities," and that most actions the FDA did take in the remaining cases amounted to requests that the violators take voluntary corrective actions. While the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011 made it mandatory that the FDA routinely inspect all domestic food processors, the agency's funding decreased in the years since that law's passage, leading food-safety experts to question "whether federal food-safety funding has kept pace with the expansion of the agency's mission." Representative Rosa L. DeLauro, a prominent advocate on food-safety issues, said in a statement, "It is clear that the FDA needs more resources to efficiently and effectively inspect food facilities and enforce infractions to keep our food supply safe."

FDA ISSUES FINAL GUIDANCE FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM. Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News (9/29, 189K) reported the FDA "issued final guidance for biopharmas seeking to incorporate what the agency deems 'promising emerging and novel technologies' in their drug manufacturing processes." The agency's final guidance entitled "Advancement of Emerging Technology Applications for Pharmaceutical Innovation and Modernization" includes "recommendations to companies that are interested in participating in the FDA's Emerging Technology Program." FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in a statement, "We're at an inflection point in the practice of medicine, not only in terms of novel therapies, but also when it comes to the advanced technology being used to manufacture these products. The FDA is committed to continuing to foster advances in innovative pharmaceutical manufacturing, which ultimately has the potential to improve drug quality and safety."

BREXIT COULD MAKE US A DESTINATION FOR MEDICATION ACCESS. Newsweek (10/2, Sheridan, 991K) reports that the European Medicines Agency is preparing to move its headquarters out of London as a result of Brexit. Newsweek adds that as a result of the relocation, "it could take two or three years for the regulator to fully recover," and that could cause Europeans' access to medications to be "compromised." The piece mentions that FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb "has put a premium on speeding up approvals, especially for generic drugs," which could make the US a destination for Europeans seeking access to drugs not available in Europe.



AMERISOURCEBERGEN TO PAY \$260 MILLION AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO SCHEME THAT PUT CANCER PATIENTS' HEALTH AT RISK. In continuing coverage, Philadelphia Inquirer (9/29, Wood, 1.71M) reported that AmerisourceBergen Corp., "one of the largest distributors of pharmaceuticals in the" US, "will pay \$260 million in penalties after pleading guilty in a subsidiary's scheme that put the health of thousands of cancer patients at risk." Mark S. McCormack of the FDA's criminal investigations office, said, "Injectable drugs prescribed for patients – especially vulnerable cancer patients – must be pure, sterile, and produced in a FDA-compliant facility that is within the supply chain that the FDA oversees." McCormack added, "We will continue to pursue and bring to justice those manufacturers who would violate the public's trust and endanger their health by attempting to avoid FDA's oversight authority."

BIOTECH STOCKS DROP AFTER FDA MAKES ADVERSE EVENTS REPORTING SYSTEM MORE ACCESSIBLE. On its website, <u>CNBC</u> (9/29, Tirrell, 3.48M) reported that biotech stocks fell on Friday, after the Food and Drug Administration made its Adverse Events Reporting System more accessible. Investors began using the database to research drugs, but some analysts warned that investors were assuming that adverse events in the database were side effects. A spokeswoman for the FDA said, "Reporting of adverse events by health care professionals and consumers is voluntary in the United States. As such, there are limitations associated with the FAERS data, and the data by themselves are not an indicator of the safety profile of the drug or biologic."

HHS SPOKESMAN SAYS FEDERAL EXCHANGE DOWNTIME WILL BE COMPARABLE TO LAST YEAR'S OPEN ENROLLMENT. The Washington Post (9/29, Eilperin, 10.38M) reported HHS spokesman Matt Lloyd said that planned outages of healthcare.gov during this year's open enrollment are comparable to last year's outages. Lloyd said in an email, "This year's potential maintenance schedule is consistent with last year's under the previous administration. System downtime will continue to be planned for the lowest-traffic time periods on HealthCare.gov, including Sunday mornings."

Two Democrats Ask HHS Why Federal Exchange Will Be Offline During Part Of Open Enrollment. The Washington Examiner (9/29, King, 465K) reported Reps. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) wrote a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services asking why the department is planning to take healthcare.gov offline during part of this year's open enrollment period. The letter said in part, "The department has had this entire year to conduct routine maintenance without any disruption to people seeking to purchase healthcare plans."

REPORT: REPLACING FAULTY HEART DEVICES COSTS MEDICARE \$1.5 BILLION OVER 10 YEARS. The New York Times (10/2, Schulte, Jewett) reports the Inspector General's office for Health and Human Services released a report Monday showing that Medicare paid over \$1.5 billion over the past decade to replace defective heart devices, which failed for "thousands of patients." The officials said that nearly 73,000 people on Medicare had one of the seven devices which were "replaced because of recalls, premature failures, medically necessary upgrades or infections." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Administrator Seema Verma issued a statement saying that the report's recommendation that hospitals and physicians be required to report information on failed devices, including serial and batch numbers, is "under consideration."

SENATE REPUBLICANS RELEASE NEW BUDGET RESOLUTION FOCUSED ON TAX CUTS RATHER THAN ACA REPEAL. Bloomberg News (9/29, Wasson, 4.52M) reported Senate Republicans released a new budget resolution indicating that they intend to pursue tax cuts, but not the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Under the new resolution, funding for non-defense discretionary appropriations, including the National Institutes of Health, "would be cut by \$632 billion over 10 years." The proposal "also urges senators to revise the Children's Health Insurance Program."

The Hill (9/29, Weixel, 1.68M) reported the new "budget resolution for fiscal year 2018 focuses almost entirely on tax reform," and instructs the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee to craft legislation.



NCI'S LOWY AND SCHILLER EARN RESEARCH AWARD DESCRIBED AS "AMERICA'S NOBEL PRIZE." The Cancer Letter (9/29) reported that on Sept. 15 "Douglas and John Schiller received the 2017 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award...for research that led to development of the human papillomavirus vaccine." The article mentioned that Lowy is finishing "his stint as the NCI acting director" and "becomes the first sitting head of the institute – permanent or acting – to win the award, which is described as America's Nobel Prize." The article quotes Lowy as saying, "When many people think about recent research achievements in cancer and other diseases, the focus is usually on advances in the treatment of established disease. At the risk of oversimplification, I see disease prevention as containing an inherent paradox." The article quotes Schiller, deputy chief of the Laboratory of Cellular Oncology and head of the Neoplastic Disease Section at the NCI Center for Cancer Research, as saying, "In my estimation, the accumulation of technical and conceptual knowledge in a certain field can combine to make even paradigm shifting discoveries inevitable."

MACROPHAGES PLAY A COMPLEX ROLE IN RESPONDING TO INFECTIONS. The Scientist (10/1, Asher, 154K) reports in an over-3,000 word article that macrophages have a much more complex role in the body's immune response than previously believed. The article quotes National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases immunologist Tom Wynn as saying that macrophages, in the last phase of their infection response, "will take on a resolving phenotype, where they produce a variety of anti-inflammatory factors that help quiet the inflammation." Wynn adds, "I think we're learning [that] more and more cells in the body are much more flexible...than we originally thought," and "macrophages are probably exceptional in that ability."

NHGRI INTRODUCES TOOLKIT TO ADVANCE PRECISION MEDICINE AT SMALLER HOSPITALS. Healthcare IT News (9/29, Millard, 5K) reported that "a new online toolkit from the National Human Genome Research Institute hopes to help nurses and clinicians working in smaller care settings start taking advantage of" precision medicine. The article said "the Method for Introducing a New Competency Genomics website launched by NHGRI...offers more than 100 resources for nursing leaders 'at all levels of genomics competency,' according to the group." Laura Lyman Rodriguez, director of the division of policy, communication and education at NHGRI, called the MINC a "starting point for healthcare providers who want to promote genomic integration into practice to benefit their patients." She added, "Genomic medicine is already in broad use in fields such as oncology, while other areas of care are just beginning to implement genomic applications. Now is, therefore, an ideal moment for providers across the spectrum to think about how these advances might apply to their own patients, and begin to plan for how they will prepare to implement those applications."

ADMINISTRATION DELAYS PRICE-GOUGING RULE FOR DRUG COMPANIES. The Hill (9/30, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that the Administration "delayed the implementation of a rule under the Affordable Care Act meant to punish drug companies for price gouging." According to the Hill, the Department of Health and Human Services "quietly logged the delayed rollout of the rule into the federal register," which would have allowed "the government to punish drug companies that 'knowingly and intentionally' overcharge customers with fines up to \$5,000 for each instance of overcharging." According to a spokesperson, "HHS continues to believe that the delay of the effective date provides regulated entities sufficient time to implement the requirements of the rule, as well as allowing a more deliberate process of considering alternative and supplemental regulatory provisions, and to allow for sufficient time for additional rule-making."

HHS FUNDS EBOLA VACCINES, DRUGS. Reuters (9/29, Steenhuysen) reported that the Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority "is investing more than \$170 million to help two new vaccines against the Ebola virus and two Ebola drugs complete the steps needed for approval from the Food and Drug Administration." According to the article, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases "provided early-stage funding for many of the products."

LOS ANGELES EXPERIENCING SURGE IN WEST NILE VIRUS CASES. <u>STAT</u> (9/29, McFarling, 43K) reported that cases of West Nile virus in Los Angeles "have spiked this fall to worrisome levels," with six reported deaths in Los Angeles County in 2017, "including three just last week." The article adds that "the



cases are alarmingly severe," with 79 of "98 reported infections" resulting in "serious neurological side effects." The article says eighty percent of people infected with West Nile virus exhibit no symptoms, but some "can get fevers, fatigue, and flu-like symptoms," including "Dr. Lyle Petersen, the director of the CDC's division of vector-borne diseases" who in 2003 "was infected with West Nile virus after going out to pick up his mail without insect repellent."

USPSTF DRAFT RECOMMENDS SCREENING WITH HRHPV WITHOUT CYTOLOGY. The Cancer Letter (9/29, Ong) reports according to a recent draft recommendation released by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, women ages 30 to 65 "may no longer need to rely on co-testing" to detect "high-grade precancerious cervical lesions and cervical cancer," as they can "choose to either screen for high-risk human papillomavirus types or undergo cervical cytology." The draft statement "recommends screening for cervical cancer every three years with cervical cytology alone in women ages 21 to 29," while for women ages 30 to 65, "USPSTF recommends either screening every three years with cervical cytology alone, or every five years with hrHPV testing alone."

Health Reform:

SO-CALLED "LITTLE LOBBYISTS" IMPACTED HEALTHCARE DEBATE. The New York Times (10/1, A16, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that "children with serious medical" conditions have traveled to the Capitol to urge members of Congress not to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The article suggests that the so-called "little lobbyists" had an impact on Congress by putting "a human face on the debate." The article mentions that the American Medical Association also lobbied against the legislation.

REPUBLICAN VOTERS UPSET WITH CONGRESS OVER FAILURE TO REPEAL ACA. The AP (9/30, Fram) reported Republican "voters are angry and don't trust" their members of Congress "following the collapse of their latest push to repeal the" Affordable Care Act. The article suggests that could cause "trouble for a party preparing to defend its House and Senate majorities in 2018 midterm elections."

ACA NAVIGATORS REPORT FACING TECHNICAL GLITCHES IN CERTIFICATION COURSE. Kaiser Health News (10/2, Luthra) reports that in states that use the federal marketplace, healthcare.gov, many navigators are "hitting snags completing a mandatory certification course" as a result of more "technical glitches" combined with "getting less help from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the federal agency tasked with supporting them." Users complain of "repeated error messages and lost or unsaved work after sections of the training are completed."

SEN. CASSIDY RAISING FUNDS WITH PROMISE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE ACA. The AP (9/29) reported Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) is raising campaign funding by urging donors to support his efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. On Friday, Cassidy's campaign sent an email requesting donations to help the Senator continue his efforts.

THE HILL OUTLINES HOW REPUBLICANS FAILED TO REPEAL THE ACA THIS YEAR. In a more than 2,700 word article, The Hill (10/1, Bolton, 1.68M) outlines how Republicans' strategy concerning the Affordable Care Act has evolved since the election in November. The article reports that at first many Republican leaders wanted to repeal the law and then leave themselves time to come up with a replacement plan later, but later the momentum shifted to repealing and replacing the law simultaneously. The article suggests that the Republicans made a number of strategic mistakes in trying to repeal and replace the law this year.

IDAHO PREMIUMS TO INCREASE 27% ON AVERAGE ON STATE EXCHANGE. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/29, King, 465K) reported there will be an average 27% increase in premiums for health plans sold on Idaho's exchange, according to the state's insurance regulator. State officials said, "Large rate increases may be needed when the prior year's premiums is not sufficient to pay for health claims and administrative costs and fees."

SEN. CRUZ SAYS US SHOULDN'T "BAIL OUT" HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES. The Hill (9/29,



Sullivan, 1.68M) reported Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) said in a statement, "It would be a serious mistake to bail out insurance companies, rather than provide relief to the millions of Americans who are hurting under Obamacare." The article points out that Cruz's statement comes as Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (R-WA) are working on a bill to stabilize individual insurance markets, "which is expected to include funding for key payments to insurance companies known as cost-sharing reductions (CSRs)."

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER CRITICIZES REPUBLICAN SENATORS WHO VOTED AGAINST REPEALING ACA. The Washington Examiner (9/30, Quinn, 465K) reported House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) criticized the Republican Senators who voted against repealing the Affordable Care Act. McCarthy said on MSNBC, "To me, it seems one or two individuals wants to hold everything up, and that's the frustration I've had with the history of the Senate, where one individual can hold everything up."

WALL STREET JOURNAL COLUMNIST SAYS REPUBLICANS WILL HAVE TO WORK WITH DEMOCRATS TO PASS HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION. The Washington Examiner (9/29, Scarry, 465K) reported that Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan said in her column that Congressional Republicans will not be able to pass any healthcare legislation without Democrats and that any successful bill would have to be more "left" than what Republicans want. The article quotes Noonan who wrote: "The path to a bill better than ObamaCare — and it would have to be bad indeed to be worse than ObamaCare — runs through the Democrats. Changing one-sixth of the American economy cannot be successfully done without them."

REPUBLICANS WILL CONTINUE PUSH FOR HEALTHCARE REFORM. Modern Healthcare (9/30, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reported that "Republicans will continue their push for conservative healthcare reform." The article suggests that "another attempt to modify the ACA would need Democratic support."

REPUBLICANS' FUTURE ACA REPEAL PROPOSALS WILL LIKELY GIVE STATES MORE FLEXIBILITY, LESS FUNDING. The <u>Stateline</u> (9/29, Ollove, 4K) reported that "Republicans have vowed to keep trying" to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The article suggests that future Republican proposals will likely "ask states to remake the health insurance marketplaces within their borders with less federal money to do it."

HHS WITHDRAWS FROM MEETINGS TO PROMOTE ENROLLMENT IN FEDERAL EXCHANGE IN MISSISSIPPI. The AP (9/30, Amy) reported the Department of Health and Human Services has "pulled out of meetings around" Mississippi that were "organized by the Mississippi Health Advocacy Program" designed to increase enrollment in health plans sold on the federal exchange. HHS press secretary Caitlin Oakley said in a statement, "As Obamacare continues to collapse, HHS is carefully evaluating how we can best serve the American people who continue to be harmed by Obamacare's failures."

TECHNOLOGY COMPANY TO PAY \$264,000 FOR DATA BREACH ON VERMONT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE. The <u>Burlington (VT) Free Press</u> (9/29, 117K) reported SAManage USA, Inc. "will pay a \$264,000 fine for a data breach involving 660" users of Vermont Health Connect, the state's health insurance exchange. The company provided technology support services for Vermont Health Connect.

The AP (10/1) also reports.

PREMIUMS FOR IDAHO EXCHANGE PLANS TO INCREASE BY 27% ON AVERAGE. The <u>Idaho</u> <u>Statesman</u> (9/29, Dutton, 211K) reported the Idaho Department of Insurance announced that the average premium increases for health plans sold on the state exchange is 27%. Dean Cameron, the department's director, said that "there is legitimate uncertainty" about whether the federal government will continue funding subsidies that help cover out-of-pocket expenses for people who purchase silver plans.

PREMIUMS FOR WASHINGTON EXCHANGE PLANS TO INCREASE 24% ON AVERAGE. The <u>Seattle Times</u> (9/29, Blethen, 1.08M) reported premiums for health plans sold on the Washington state exchange will increase by 24% on average, which will be the largest increase since the exchange launched in 2013.



The article explains that premiums increased by 11% in 2017, by 4% in 2016, and 1% in 2015.

REPUBLICANS RELEASE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR TAX REFORM, DELAYING ANOTHER HEALTHCARE EFFORT. The Washington Times (10/1, Howell, 541K) reports the Senate GOP's budget proposal released Friday shows that Republicans plan comprehensive tax reform under the budget reconciliation process and will not make another attempt at repealing the Affordable Care Act until fiscal 2019. The proposal could still "target" the ACA's individual mandate to have insurance and some other tax provisions, however. The budget proposal instructs the Senate Finance Committee to create a tax proposal that can pass with 50 votes.

DEMOCRATS PLAN TO EMPHASIZE GOP HEALTHCARE AGENDA IN 2018 MID-TERM

ELECTIONS. The Hill (10/1, Roubein, 1.68M) reports Democrats plan to use Republicans' healthcare agenda as a weapon during the 2018 midterm elections. Tyler Law, a spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), said, "I think the message is really simple here: As long as Republicans control Congress, your health care is on the chopping block." David Bergstein, a spokesman for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) agreed, adding, "The Republicans' toxic health care agenda that spikes costs, strips coverage for pre-existing conditions, and imposes an age tax on older Americans will be the defining issue of the midterms."

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR SUPPORT SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE. The <u>Springfield (MA) Republican</u> (9/30, Schoenberg, 520K) reported that all three Democrats running for Massachusetts governor have come out in support of moving the state to a single-payer healthcare system. The article collects interview statements from each of the three candidates, Newton Mayor Setti Warren, former health insurance executive Jay Gonzalez, and entrepreneur Bob Massie, explaining why they are in favor of the system.

THREE INSURERS PLAN TO CONTINUE TO OFFER HEALTH COVERAGE IN TENNESSEE. The AP (9/29) reported three insurance companies signed agreements to sell plans through the Federally Facilitated Marketplace next year. BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Cigna and Oscar Health are scheduled to introduce their plans during the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance's annual public meeting on Thursday in Nashville. The department's Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak is the president-elect of the National Association of Insurance Commissioner and she sent a letter on the group's behalf on Friday urging congressional action to stabilize healthcare markets.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA RESIDENTS WILL HAVE JUST ONE INSURER ON THE INDIVIDUAL MARKETPLACE. The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (9/30, O'Connor, 394K) reported that there is only one insurer planning to offer plans in the Richmond, Virginia area next year, Cigna, after the two largest plans on the exchange, Aetna and Anthem, chose not to sell plans on the marketplace next year. Around 51,000 residents of the Richmond area get their insurance from the exchange. Cigna's premiums will increase an average of 50 percent next year. Cigna "historically has contracted exclusively with HCA Virginia," so patients who sign up for the plans may not have access to "two of the three largest healthcare providers in the region, Bon Secours and VCU Health."

AMERICANS FACING PREMIUM INCREASES UNDER ACA. The Los Angeles Times (9/29, Levey, 4.49M) reported on consumers who buy health insurance through the individual marketplace who have seen premium increases. The piece profiles a retired couple in their late 50s in Denver, Jim Hansen and his wife, who have seen their annual premiums triple since 2015, and whose incomes are too high to qualify for subsidies to help counter the increases. The article mentions that "most state regulators, insurers, consumer advocates and others say Congress and the Trump administration could slow rate hikes for people like Hansen with a few basic steps," including enforcing the individual mandate, provide funding to insurers for high-cost patients and consumer who cannot pay out-of-pocket costs, and "aggressively working to get more people to sign up for health plans."

MINNESOTANS FACED WITH "NARROW NETWORKS" ON INDIVIDUAL MARKET INSURANCE PLANS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/1, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports that the 170,000 Minnesotans who buy insurance on the individual market encounter "narrow networks" as a "prominent cost-control tool



for insurers in individual markets," where not all hospitals and physicians are in their networks. The article says "Minnesota is the land of narrow networks" since 45 percent of the plans sold on the ACA exchanges in Minnesota have "an narrow network of doctors and hospitals," compared to 21 percent nationally. Minnesota insurers for the first time in 2018 will have to comply with a new law that "requires them to offer at least one individual health plan with a provider network that includes in-network access to more than one health care provider system."

ANTHEM, HARTFORD HEALTHCARE FAIL TO REACH AGREEMENT ON NEW CONTRACT. The Connecticut Mirror (10/1, Rigg) reports that Hartford HealthCare and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield's three-year contract ended Saturday and the two sides have not come to a new agreement. The result is that approximately 60,000 people will have to pay higher out-of-pocket costs to use Hartford Healthcare hospitals, employed physicians, and ancillary providers. Hartford HealthCare's statement said that it "worked very hard to avoid this outcome, and we will continue to pursue a resolution with Anthem." Anthem said Hartford Healthcare sought "a rate increase that is two to three times the rate of inflation, and that is not acceptable to us, and not acceptable to our members."

REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS MAY AGREE ON SOME HEALTHCARE ISSUES. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/2, King, Leonard, 465K) examines healthcare issues where there appears to be "bipartisan consensus." The article says that Democrats and Republicans agree that prescription drug costs need to be reduced, but disagree on how to address the issue. Both parties agree on medical research funding, as Republicans "took a major role in leading the charge to preserve funding for NIH." Other issues include: opioid treatment funding, support for caregivers, and repeal of the medical device tax.

ANALYSIS: TRUMP'S PLAN FOR INSURANCE ACROSS STATE LINES COULD MEAN FEWER CONSUMER PROTECTIONS. The Washington Examiner (10/2, Leonard, 465K) reports on President Trump's expected executive order "during the next few weeks that would allow people to buy health insurance across state lines" by permitting "more people to band together as a group to do so." Some experts believe that such a proposal would allow an insurer to sell a plan with the "least-restrictive" state's regulations, which could mean selling plans that do not guarantee coverage to those with pre-existing conditions or providing a mandated range of medical care, such as addiction and maternity services.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

The New York Times (10/2, Board, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) editorializes that the negotiations between Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) have resumed, and that they "hope to offer Congress a way out of the morass with a modest bill that could help strengthen the A.C.A.'s individual insurance markets, which are used by about 10 million people, without overhauling the whole system in ways that could deprive millions of people of subsidized care." The Times says, "Any deal will involve compromise," and recommends, "All things considered, Republicans should make a deal."

Seema Jayachandran wrote in the New York Times (9/29, Jayachandran, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that a public health insurance option could have the effect of forcing the private sector "to improve its game to retain customers, so more people benefit than just those who directly use the public services." Jayachandran compares the effects of adding public insurance to a welfare program in India where private employers began paying higher wages once welfare recipients could earn a welfare-level wage by working on infrastructure projects. He concludes, "If the same thing happens with health insurance in the United States, a public option might help millions of people who don't end up buying it."

Tom Nichols, Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval War College, wrote in <u>USA Today</u> (9/29, 8.62M) that even a non-expert in healthcare can see that "Affordable Care Act needs fixing." He adds that the Graham-Cassidy bill process proved that there "is a vocal minority of the voting public that really has no interest in finding out what's in some of the most important bills facing Congress at any given time. What they want, instead, is a victory over the other side in every legislative battle." He concludes that Republicans' process was "rushed along" in order to listen "far too much to a vocal minority who have no idea what they're talking about and do not want to learn more than the little they know."



Chad Pergram writes for Fox News (10/1, 12.87M) on its website that Republicans' vow to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act is "nearing obsession." Pergram reviews comments by Vice President Pence Monday that the "Senate is close to legislation to repeal and replace" even as the next day Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "decided to sideline the health care bill for the time being" because they did not have the votes. He writes, "What drives Republicans up the wall is that Democrats managed to run all of the parliamentary traps and artfully thread the legislative needles in such a way that they passed ObamaCare." He concludes, "That fact and that fact alone simply drives Republicans bonkers."

Albert R. Hunt writes in his column in <u>Bloomberg View</u> (10/1, 4.52M) that "the party that owns health care is a loser." Hunt argues that right now Democrats have "the high ground on the issue" while defending the Affordable Care Act from Republicans, but Hunt suggests that Democrats could lose that position if they continue to push for a single-payer healthcare system.

Bloomberg View (9/29, 4.52M) editorialized that "the Trump administration is redoubling its efforts to undermine the" Affordable Care Act, because Congress has failed to repeal it. The editorial argues that "the latest act of sabotage" is that federal officials "have been told not to help states sign up Americans for insurance policies as part of this fall's open enrollment period."

The <u>Bangor (ME) Daily News</u> (9/29, 162K) editorialized that Republicans' efforts to repeal and replace, or undermine, the Affordable Care Act are creating uncertainty in the health insurance markets making them unstable, which causes premiums to rise. The editorial argues that Republicans "wrongly blame the act for being a failure when it is their continued attacks on the health insurance law that are causing the uncertainty that is driving companies from the ACA marketplaces and is a large factor in rising health insurance costs."

In an opinion piece, the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/29, 465K) contributor Emily Jashinsky wrote that Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) sent a fundraising email for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee that promoted his healthcare bill. Jashinsky argues that the email will make it "harder for Democratic incumbents to distance themselves from efforts to implement a single-payer healthcare system."

The Parkersburg (WV) News and Sentinel (10/1, 60K) editorializes that the proponents of "repealing and replacing Obamacare have failed on multiple occasions because the ACA's creators, led by then-President Barack Obama, did their work very well." The Sentinel suggests, "Instead of a thorough repeal and replacement, lawmakers and President Donald Trump should turn to a piecemeal approach. Small changes, such as giving states the power to hold down Medicaid costs, could be productive."

Robert C. Garrett, Co-CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health, writes in the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (10/1, 1.62M) that his company, one of New Jersey's largest healthcare networks, is embracing a "promising innovation" to "reduce costs and improve outcomes" by using "value-based care" where "doctors and hospitals are paid to keep patients healthy, through accountable care organizations, or ACOs." He explains that Hackensack University Medical Center is now ranked seventh in the nation based on its ACO's management of patients because it saved \$33 million in costs with "one of the highest-quality scores in the nation." He concludes that the "success is undeniable."

David Harsany wrote in the New York Post (9/29, 4.31M) urging Republicans ton not embrace a "bipartisan approach to fix health care." He says, "For the first time in American history, the party in power – complete power, mind you – is being asked to bail out the minority's signature failed reform." He concludes, "If Republicans truly believe Obamacare has harmed America, there is no upside in fake bipartisanship. Not for the GOP. And not for the American people."

The <u>Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate</u> (9/30, 72K) editorialized that Sen. Bill Cassidy's (R-LA) legislation "became a tangle" because of the "sheer complexity of the American health care system." The Advocate wrote that while Democrats have been working with Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), "Democrats must come to the table willing to give on some of their ideas," in order for "anything at all to pass the Senate."

The Des Moines (IA) Register (10/1, 324K) editorializes that "the Trump administration is actively working



to discourage Americans from buying private coverage in exchanges created by" the Affordable Care Act. The Register says that the US Department of Health and Human Services is "going out of its way to prevent Americans from securing health insurance" by cutting advertising and promotion for enrollment, cutting grants to navigators, shortening open enrollment, and shutting down healthcare.gov nearly every Sunday for Americans in 38 states who use the website. The Register mentions that during the last four enrollment periods, "weekends generally brought higher traffic to healthcare.gov than weekdays," with as many as 1 million people visiting the site in a single weekend.

Thornton Kirby, President of the South Carolina Hospital Association, writes in Columbia (SC) State (10/1, 344K) that with the expiration of reconciliation authority without healthcare legislation, it is "imperative for South Carolina's leaders to start looking at what we can do here in our state to make health care better for the people we serve." Kirby says that there is an emerging "bipartisan consensus" for establishing a "reinsurance program" – including South Carolina's Insurance Director "who recently testified that such a program reduced premiums by 21 percent during the last year it was in operation in South Carolina." Kirby concludes, "South Carolina's hospitals and other health-care providers are ready to sit down with Gov. Henry McMaster, legislators and health-policy experts to develop a flexible proposal that is uniquely tailored to meet South Carolina's needs."

Jim Fossel, a conservative activist who worked for Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), writes in the Portland (ME) Press Herald (10/1, 191K) that a "bad process can make the best idea a partisan mess when it's actually turned into legislation, while a good process can allow an ill-conceived concept to float through Congress." He critiques the passage of the ACA, then says that "Ironically – and hypocritically – Republicans used an even more rushed, secretive process to develop their repeal and replace bills than Democrats used to pass Obamacare in the first place." Fossel concludes that Sens. John McCain (R-AZ) and Collins were "right to be infuriated about the process" and that healthcare reform should "go through extensive public hearings, committee votes" and that it should need 60 votes to pass.

Opioid News:

NBC SPOTLIGHTS HUMAN COST OF OPIOID CRISIS. NBC Nightly News (10/1, story 7, 4:20, Snow, 16.61M) reported it is "launching a series that looks at the impact of heroin and opioid addiction in this country on smallest victims, the children." The report profiled a fourth grader who moved in with his father's family after his biological mother and stepfather were arrested, and both were users of heroin. After they were arrested, they "admitted to something unthinkable. They told police that when his sister was born last April, they knew she would be addicted to heroin since her mother used through the pregnancy. When the baby was still in the ward, stepdad Colby told police he rubbed opioid drugs on the newborn's gums to prevent her from going into withdrawal and having seizures."

EDITORIAL: DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION AMONG EIGHT WAYS TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS. In an editorial, the New York Times (9/30, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) described eight steps that could help solve the US opioid epidemic. The eight steps included educational programs that teach drug abuse prevention to young students. The editorial mentioned that "a 2015 study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found that 'Life Skills Training' for seventh graders helped them avoid misusing prescription opioids throughout their teenage years."

ALABAMA PHARMACY TECHNICIAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING PAIN MEDICATION FROM CANCER PATIENTS. The Washington Post (10/2, Hawkins, 10.38M) reports Johnathon William Click, a pharmacy technician, pleaded to secret stealing pain medications from vials destined for cancer patients in hospice care. Click faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Click allegedly siphoned morphine and hydromorphone from the vials and replaced the liquid with saline or sterile water. U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town said, "This defendant was willing to subject terminal cancer patients to intolerable pain in order to feed his own addiction. ... This is one more aspect of the epidemic problem America has with abuse of prescription opioids."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS SOUTHERN OHIO \$3 MILLION TO COMBAT OPIOID ABUSE.



The AP (10/1) reports the Department of Justice awarded "nearly \$3 million to Ohio's southern federal court district" to support "drug court programs as part of a national initiative to curb opioid abuse."

TIME-RELEASE BUPRENORPHINE COULD BE A "GAME CHANGER" IN OPIOID FIGHT, RESEARCHER SUGGESTS. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (9/29, Warren, 391K) reported that "two Kentucky researchers are testing a breakthrough" opioid addiction treatment that injects a time-release form of buprenorphine "straight into the patient's body." Lexington psychiatrist Dr. Michelle Lofwall said, "This could be a game-changer if it stops the stigma." The treatment still must receive FDA approval. The article says that many addicts require medication to treat opioid addiction, "according to a report by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration."

MINNESOTA MEDICAL COMPANIES TO HOLD PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON OPIOID

ALTERNATIVES. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/29, Carlson, 1.27M) reported that multiple Minnesota-based companies are working on solutions to the opioid epidemic. The article said "Minnesota medical technology trade group the Medical Alley Association" is holding "a public roundtable session on Monday in St. Paul that will bring together influential state legislators and medical companies active in the state" to discuss some of the ideas. The article added that America's Health Insurance Plans spokeswoman Cathryn Donaldson "said via e-mail that insurers are going to continue to insist on evidence-based care that is tailored to fit each individual's needs."

STAT INTERVIEWS RESEARCHER ABOUT POTENTIAL OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA TO REDUCE OPIOID USE. STAT (9/29, Blau, 43K) interviewed Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, associate chief of general internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, about the potential for marijuana to reduce the amount of opioid pain medications prescribed. Cunningham is conducting a study funded by the National Institutes of Health "to see if medical marijuana reduces opioid use among chronic pain patients." According to Cunningham, "What I care about is that people are dying from opioids. What I do know is that people are not dying from marijuana. I want to look at the harms associated with opioids — which we know — against the harms of marijuana – which we don't."

MASSACHUSETTS CASE ON TREATMENT OF RELAPSE OF OPIOID ADDICT COULD HAVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS. The AP (10/2, Richer) reports on a legal challenge to the Massachusetts "practice of requiring people with addiction to remain drug free as a condition of probation." Julie Eldred "argues that by jailing people with substance use disorder for failing to stay clean, courts are unfairly punishing users for something beyond their control." According to Eldred's attorney, "Eldred did not 'choose' to relapse any more than a person who has hypertension chooses to have high blood pressure, a person who is homeless chooses to sleep in an alley, or a person who is destitute chooses not to pay court-ordered fees or restitution." The AP reports, "A decision in Eldred's favor could transform Massachusetts' criminal justice system, observers say." The National Institute on Drug Abuse and American Society of Addiction Medicine is named among groups that "view substance use disorder as a brain disease that interferes with a person's ability to control their desire to use drugs."

OPINION: TAKING OPIOIDS OFF THE MARKET IS NOT THE BEST SOLUTION. Zaina Qureshi writes in the Conversation (UK) (10/1, 12K) that the strategy to take opioids off the market – such as the US Food and Drug Administration's request to take Opana ER off the market in June – "isn't the solution." There are patients "suffering from chronic pain who need or strongly benefit from these drugs," as the "National Center for Health Statistics estimates that a fourth of the nation's population suffers from pain lasting longer than 24 hours." The column suggests an approach examining physicians' prescribing practices, prescription drug monitoring programs, and tailoring treatment for each patient as among the strategies for minimizing abuse.

Healthcare Fraud:

MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATING ADDICTION TREATMENT FRAUD. STAT (9/29, Armstrong, 43K) reported that Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey has opened "a criminal investigation of addiction treatment scams, which have proliferated amid the national opioid



addiction crisis." Healey did not divulge details on the "entities or individuals...being targeted."

Healthcare News:

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TABLES ACCEPTANCE OF \$1.1 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT. The New Hampshire Union Leader (10/1, Solomon, 118K) reports New Hampshire state lawmakers on the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee decided again on Friday to table a request by the state's Insurance Department to accept a \$1.1 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The grant would be used to investigate whether insurance companies are complying with applicable laws related to behavioral health and substance abuse. New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu (R), Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny, and advocacy groups in the substance abuse and mental health communities have urged lawmakers to accept the grant.

Health Information Technology:

HHS SECURITY FUNCTIONS LABELED INEFFECTIVE BY GAO REPORT. Fierce Healthcare (9/29, Sweeney, 146K) reported the Government Accountability Office released a report Thursday which said that the Department of Health and Human Services has not implemented "effective" security functions on its information technology. HHS spent \$13 billion on IT in 2016, far more than any other agency. The GAO report scored 24 agencies and HHS was scored at "level two," which means that it has "formalized policies and procedures" but they "are inconsistently implemented," according to Fierce.

Human Services News:

ILLINOIS HEAD START, EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS TO RECEIVE \$42 MILLION. The AP (9/30) reported Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) announced that Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Illinois will receive \$42 million from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. Organizations in the city will receive \$20 million, including the Christopher House, Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, Chicago Commons Association and the Ounce of Prevention Fund. Kankakee School District No. 111, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, the Child Care Resources & Referral in Joliet and Two Rivers Head Start Agency in Aurora will also receive funds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DHHS SAYS DCYF STAFFING CONCERNS DRIVEN BY GROWING CASELOAD. The <u>Concord (NH) Monitor</u> (9/30, DeWitt, 38K) reported that New Hampshire's Division for Children, Youth and Families, in the Department of Health and Human Services, "is still struggling to fill its open positions." Data show the hiring has failed to meet targets as "the staffing gains have been matched by a proportionate increase in caseloads, increasing burnout and driving continual turnover, the department said."

Food & Import Safety:

FDA PROPOSES GIVING FOOD MANUFACTURERS MORE TIME TO COMPLY WITH NEW NUTRITION LABEL REQUIREMENTS. Reuters (9/29, Clarke) reported the Food and Drug Administration "proposed giving manufacturers an extra 1-1/2 years to comply with new nutrition label requirements on packaged foods." Under the proposal, the agency would give "big companies, defined as those with more than \$10 million in annual sales, to Jan. 1, 2020, while smaller companies [would] have until Jan. 1, 2021 to comply."

Medicaid & CHIP:

ADVOCACY GROUP TO FILE FOR UTAH BALLOT INITIATIVE TO EXPAND MEDICAID. The Descret (UT) News (9/29, Lockhart, 381K) reports a group called Utah Decides Healthcare will file today for the



state to decide via ballot initiative whether to expand Medicaid. Under the proposal, the state would increase their sales tax to pay for the expansion. The article mentions that the American Academy of Pediatrics' Utah chapter is among the organizations that supports the initiative. The AP (9/29, Price) reported the initiative would increase the state's sales tax to pay for the state's portion of the expansion.

The <u>Salt Lake (UT) Tribune</u> (9/29, Gifford, Anderson, 337K) reported that "if Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox approves the initiative's wording, the campaign must hold seven public hearings across the state and collect more than 113,000 signatures from registered voters to earn a spot on the November 2018 ballot."

The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (10/1, McKitrick, 93K) also covers the story.

Opinion: Utah Should Expand Medicaid. Utah state Senator Brian Shiozawa (R) wrote in an opinion piece in the <u>Salt Lake (UT) Tribune</u> (9/30, 337K) that Utah needs to expand Medicaid to better serve some of the state's most vulnerable residents. Shiozawa argues that the state should expand Medicaid to "provide vital health insurance to thousands of the uninsured." Shiozawa mentions that the state has a pending waiver request with the Department of Health and Human Services.

HAWAII SUBMITS MEDICAID WAIVER REQUEST SEEKING FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS OF HOUSING HOMELESS. Modern Healthcare (9/29, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports Hawaii has submitted a Medicaid waiver request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requesting federal funding to cover the costs of providing housing to homeless people in order to improve their health. The state wants to use federal funding "to appoint state employees to help people find housing and provide moving assistance to those beneficiaries."

MONTANA STATE OFFICIAL SAYS STATE HAS SAVED OVER \$30 MILLION FROM EXPANDING MEDICAID. The AP (9/29) reported Montana's expanded Medicaid program "has saved the state health department more than \$30 million since its start in January 2016, mostly because the federal government paid a bigger share of the costs for some recipients." Erica Johnston of the state's Department of Public Health and Human Services said that the state's expanded program covers around 84,000 state residents and has paid for \$574 million in services since it started.

Health & Medical News:

NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE AWARDED TO THREE US-BORN SCIENTISTS. The New York Times (10/2, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded Monday to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their "discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm." The three US-born scientists used fruit flies "to isolate a gene that controls the rhythm of a living organism's daily life." Yoshinori Ohsumi, a Japanese cell biologist, also "was recognized for his discoveries on how cells recycle their content, a process known as autophagy," which is thought to play "an important role in a variety of diseases and in aging."

BLOOD TEST MAY DETECT CANCER IN ITS EARLY STAGES, STUDY SUGGESTS. Faye Flam wrote for <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/29, 4.52M) that recent <u>research</u> "demonstrated a possible way to find pancreatic cancer" in its previously "undetectable phase." In the study, "a liquid biopsy...picked up signs of cancer in two-thirds of a group of people already diagnosed with early-stage cancer, and showed only one positive among 182 healthy control subjects." The test is "aimed at detecting minuscule traces of mutant DNA produced by [a] tumor."

TRANSGENDER MAN RECOVERS FROM BREAST CANCER TREATMENT. The AP (10/2, Wahlberg) profiles Casey Sexton, a transgender man who was diagnosed with breast cancer. Sexton praises the care he received at UW Health which earned "designation as one of 303 LGBTQ care-affirming facilities in the 2017 Healthcare Equality Index by the Human Rights Campaign." His oncologist, Dr. Mark Burkard, explained that his risk should have decreased when he had transition surgery to remove most of his breast tissue, but it did not eliminate it.



AUTHOR CLAIMS US GOVERNMENT TESTED RADIATION ON CITIZENS DURING COLD WAR. The AP (10/2, Salter) reports that three members of Congress are seeking answers after a St. Louis scholar's book revealed details of "how the U.S. government sprayed, injected and fed radiation and other dangerous materials to countless people in secret Cold War-era testing." Lisa Martino-Taylor, author of "Behind the Fog: How the U.S. Cold War Radiological Weapons Program Exposed Innocent Americans," learned through Freedom of Information Act requests of several tests performed on unknowing Americans, aided by academic institutions, exposing them to "potentially deadly material through open-air spraying, ingestion and injection."

CRITICS SAY PHRMA'S AD CAMPAIGN MISLEADING IN FIVE WAYS. Kaiser Health News (10/2, Hancock) reports on the five ways that critics believe that the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America's (PhRMA) ad campaign is "misleading." The piece says some think the campaign lowballs drugs' costs; exaggerates development costs, the role of generics, and benefits from new drugs; and celebrates its "slowest growth rate in years" "too loudly."

MERCK TO HALT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HEPATITIS C MEDICATIONS. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/29, Lombardo, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Merck & Co. announced Friday that it will suspend the development of new hepatitis C treatments following the completion of Phase 2 trials of two combination regimens, citing an oversaturation of treatment options in the marketplace.

OPINION: PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH NEEDS MORE FUNDING. Former AT&T vice president Dan Stark writes in an op-ed for the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/1, Stark, 10.38M) that deep brain stimulation "performed wonders" for his Parkinson's disease symptoms "for slightly over a decade." However, he says that ultimately the treatment "will fail the Parkinson's patient" because it "masks the symptoms while not affecting the underlying disease." Stark says there have been minimal advancements in Parkinson's research over the last decade and asks the president to "fund a \$10 billion research effort to find cures for 10 diseases" including Parkinson's.

OPINION: COLONOSCOPY LOOPHOLE UNFAIRLY CHARGES MEDICARE PATIENTS WITH POLYPS. Third-year gastroenterology fellow Shazia Mehmood Siddique, M.D., wrote in an op-ed for the Philadelphia Inquirer (9/28, 1.71M) that there is a "loophole" with colonoscopies under Medicare that unfairly costs patients money. Siddique said that when physicians identify a polyp during a colonoscopy, it "changes the billing code" from a screening colonoscopy "to a therapeutic colonoscopy," leaving Medicare patients with a \$500 charge. Siddique added that "The American Gastroenterological Association, and other advocacy societies, have tried to address this issue with Medicare, but learned that it will take an act of Congress to fix it." Siddique then expressed his support for "The Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act."

MOTHER MAY FACE JAIL TIME FOR REFUSING COURT ORDER TO VACCINATE SON. The Washington Post (9/30, Phillips, 10.38M) reported that a Detroit mother may face imprisonment "this week if she refuses a court order to vaccinate her 9-year-old son." The article mentioned that "the American Medical Association has long decried allowing parents to decline vaccination for nonmedical reasons and has cited vaccines' ability to prevent diseases such as measles, mumps and other infectious diseases." The article added that the Trump Administration has floated the idea of creating a commission on vaccines, and "the American Medical Association said in a statement that creating the commission 'would cause unnecessary confusion and adversely impact parental decision-making and immunization practices."

NASAL FLU VACCINE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR 2017. Alabama Live (9/29, Gore, 608K) reported the CDC "is recommending against using a nasal flu vaccine" for the second year in a row. The article said "some studies put [FluMist's] effectiveness at only 3 percent compared to an effectiveness rate of more than 60 percent for the injected version." The story added the American Academy of Pediatrics still "encourages all parents to get their children immunized" via injection by the end of October.

MARRIED RESEARCHERS ON CUTTING EDGE OF IMMUNOTHERAPY. The Washington Post (9/29, McGinley, 10.38M) reported on married cancer researchers Jim Allison and Padmanee Sharma of the



University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. The article said Allison's immunotherapy research "has ignited a revolution in oncology treatment," and Sharma "has her own significant achievements, including being the first to show that a T cell protein called ICOS boosts the effectiveness of some immunotherapy."

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME NEEDS MORE NIH FUNDING, PROFESSOR SUGGESTS. The Chicago Tribune (10/1, Rockett, 1.98M) reports that "the Sundance-award-winning film" Unrest is bringing attention to myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome. The article quotes Dr. Leonard Jason, professor of psychology at DePaul University and the director of the Center for Community Research as saying federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health must provide more funding to research the disease. He said, "If you look at funded illnesses at NIH, ME/CFS is one of the lowest funded out of over 200 chronic conditions. Even though the prevalence rates are rather high, funding has been maybe \$6 million a year from NIH for the last number of years, and that's just not enough."

SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAMS ARE OFTEN UNAVAILABLE TO PATIENTS IN LOW-INCOME AREAS. Modern Healthcare (9/30, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 238K) reported that survivorship programs, which provide "resources meant to help cancer patients remain healthy after treatment," are mostly "concentrated in large, expensive academic medical centers." The article said this "often leaves out patients in low-income areas who would benefit most from the additional help." As a result, community-based organizations are stepping up with services to fill the void. The story added that "survivorship programs are a relatively new concept in oncology care," and "about 10 years ago, the National Cancer Institute implemented protocols for providers to create survivorship care plans for their patients as an increasing number of patients were surviving cancer."

IMMUNOTHERAPY SHOWS PROMISE FOR CERTAIN LUNG CANCERS, RESEARCHER SUGGESTS. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (10/1, Viviano, 456K) reports that CAR-T therapy, which employs "a patient's own T-cells to fight aggressive...lymphoma," is one of many new promising cancer treatments in development. The article quotes Dr. Jorge Rios of the Mark H. Zangmeister Cancer Center on the Northeast Side as saying immunotherapy has "been a tremendous success" with certain lung cancers, in particular. The article adds that "Rios pointed to National Cancer Institute data that shows fewer than 5 percent of people with advanced lung cancer live five years or more after diagnosis," however "early trials exploring immunotherapy have increased that survival rate five-fold."

MEDICAL TATTOOS HELPING WOMEN WITH MASTECTOMIES. The AP (9/29, Delaney) reported that areola repigmentation, a type of medical tattoo, is benefiting breast cancer survivors who have undergone mastectomies. The article said "the National Cancer Institute estimated there will be more than 250,000 new female breast cancer cases diagnosed in 2017," and "the NCI estimates 40,610 will die from the disease this year." The article added that, "According to the National Cancer Institute...a nipple-sparing mastectomy might be an option for some women depending on the size and location of the cancer and the shape and size of the breasts."

KRATOM DEATH CASTS DOUBT ON ITS LONG-TERM LEGALITY, ADVOCATES WORRY. The AP (9/30, Esch) reported that the death of a New York state police officer due to an overdose of kratom has drawn attention to the herbal supplement and is "striking fear among kratom advocates that it could be cited in an ongoing federal review to get it banned nationwide." According to the AP, the DEA "will decide whether to proceed with a ban after the Food and Drug Administration completes an analysis of the supplement."

DYNAVAX EXPLORES OPTIONS FOR HEPATITIS B VACCINE. Reuters (9/29) reported that Dynavax Technologies Corporation "is reviewing strategic options for its hepatitis B vaccine, which could include a potential sale or licensing deal, people familiar with the matter said." According to the sources, "the review is at an early stage and the company has made no commitment to conduct a sale or licensing process."

FDA APPROVES FAST-ACTING INSULIN. Reuters (9/29, Clarke) reported that the Food and Drug Administration approved Novo Nordisk's Fiasp (insulin aspart injection), a "fast-acting insulin to treat



diabetes." The drug "is designed to help diabetics control post-meal spikes in blood sugar."

<u>Fierce Pharma</u> (9/29, Sagonowsky) reported that the decision "comes about a year after a regulatory stumble for the program," as the FDA last year "issued a complete response letter on Novo's Fiasp application as they sought more immunogenicity and clinical pharmacology data."

JUDGE DENIES REQUEST TO BLOCK MARYLAND'S DRUG PRICE-GOUGING LAW. The AP (9/29, Witte) reported that a federal judge denied a request for an injunction to Maryland's "first-in-the-nation law against pharmaceutical price gouging." The judge is "allowing litigation to move forward on the association's contention that the law is vague, but dismissed its other arguments."

Reuters (9/29, Beasley) reported that the law "will go into effect as planned on Sunday, according to the office of Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh." The Association for Accessible Medicines, a trade group for the generic drug industry, "said it will immediately appeal the court's decision."

STAT (9/29, Silverman, 43K) reported that the judge's ruling "is now likely to spur other state legislatures to mimic Maryland," according to some experts.

Additional coverage is provided by the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/29, 465K) and the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> (9/29, Dresser, 706K).

COLORADO BANS EDIBLE MARIJUANA PRODUCTS SHAPED LIKE ANIMALS, PEOPLE. The AP (10/1, Foody) reports that "a ban on gummy bears and other edible marijuana products shaped like animals, people and fruit takes effect this month in Colorado – a change aimed at decreasing the likelihood small children will mistake them for a favorite treat." The AP points out that "as part of an ongoing effort to avoid a federal crackdown on its marijuana experiment, Colorado has made cutting the number of accidental ingestion reports a priority."

PEOPLE WHO MONITOR THEIR BLOOD PRESSURE AT HOME MAY HAVE BETTER RESULTS IF THEY HAVE EXTRA SUPPORT, REVIEW SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/29, Rapaport) reported that a review suggests that individuals "who monitor their own blood pressure at home may get better results if they also have extra support like counseling and lifestyle coaching." The findings were published online in PLoS Medicine.

SOME PEOPLE STARTING TO QUESTION WHETHER A HEPATITIS A VACCINE SHORTAGE COULD BE COMING SOON. The <u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> (9/29, Sisson, 668K) reported that "with huge hepatitis A vaccination campaigns underway in many cities, some are beginning to" question "whether a vaccine shortage could be" coming soon. While "no one is saying there is such a shortage" currently "underway...there are some signs that the demand for doses is starting to strain available supplies."

PHYSICIAN EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT CARE DELIVERED TO TRANSGENDER PATIENTS WHO ARE NOT RECOGNIZABLY DYSPHORIC OR GENDER NONCONFORMING. In an opinion piece in Slate (9/29, 2.11M), pediatrician Daniel Summers, MD, expressed "concern about the care pediatricians deliver to their [transgender] patients extends beyond those who are recognizably dysphoric or gender nonconforming." Dr. Summers worries pediatricians "are missing those kids who seem to conform pretty well to gender norms but may inwardly feel uncomfortable with their assigned gender at birth." He concluded, "As a pediatrician who wants to deliver the best care possible to my patients, it's obvious to me that asking about these issues proactively – rather than acting on assumptions based on how a patient presents – would help those who may not present in more overtly nonconforming ways."

EXPECTANT MOTHERS SHOULD CAUTIOUSLY LIMIT INTAKE OF CAFFEINATED COFFEE, EXPERT SAYS. CNN (9/29, Drayer, 33.59M) reported, "In a new observational study involving close to 20,000 individuals, people who consumed at least four cups of coffee daily had a 64% lower risk of early death compared to those never or rarely consumed coffee," researchers reported in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Still, not everyone should be drinking so much coffee. For example, expectant mothers "should



cautiously limit their intake of caffeinated coffee." Dr. Joseph Wax, chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Committee on Obstetric Practice, said, "Current evidence suggests that consuming moderate amounts of caffeine up to 200 mg per day, the amount in a 12-ounce cup of coffee, is not associated with increased risks for miscarriage or preterm birth." Dr. Wax added, "However, data are contradictory regarding these pregnancy outcomes when women consume more than 200 mg per day of caffeine."

ORGANIZATIONS SAY THERE IS NO SAFE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL TO DRINK WHILE PREGNANT. Forbes (9/30, Rubin, 5.11M) contributor Rita Rubin wrote that the "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics say there is no safe amount of alcohol to drink while pregnant." In a review published in BMJ Open, "authors reviewed 24 studies about light drinking in pregnancy and pooled their results," finding that "evidence about the effects of drinking the equivalent of two pints of beer or two small glasses of wine per week is 'sparse."

WESTMINSTER, COLORADO OFFICIALLY DECLARES ITS OPPOSITION TO CONVERSION THERAPY. The NBC News (9/30, Brammer, 3.46M) website reported that last week, Westminster, CO, became the "first city" in the state "to officially declare its opposition to 'conversion therapy' when earlier this week the mayor and town council issued a proclamation against the controversial practice." The article noted that the American Psychiatric Association "and a number of other health organizations, have issued statements against conversion therapy." The APA stated, "APA opposes any psychiatric treatment, such as 'reparative' or 'conversion' therapy, that is based on the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or is based on the a priori assumption that the patient should change his or her homosexual orientation."

AUTISTIC YOUNG ADULTS MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO ALSO HAVE A PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The NPR (10/1, Haelle, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reported, "Young adults on the autism spectrum" may be "more likely to also have been diagnosed with a psychiatric condition, such as depression, anxiety and" attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) "than are typically developing people or those with other developmental disabilities," researchers found after examining data from two large "groups of young adults, ages 18-24, in Ontario, Canada." The findings were published online Sept. 13 in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

EXPERTS CONCERNED THAT SYPHILIS IS STILL AFFECTING US BIRTHS. The New York Daily News (9/29, Scotti, 3.61M) reported that more than 600 babies born last year in the US were affected by syphilis. Of them, 45 "were stillborn, had birth defects or later died within the first month of their lives," an "alarming figure to many public health experts" as syphilis is treatable. Infectious Diseases Society of America at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security spokesperson, Dr. Amesh Adalja said, "When you have congenital syphilis occurring, it means there has been a breakdown in the whole medical system – that these cases are not being diagnosed until a baby is born, when they should be diagnosed antenatally (pre-birth) or even before then."

ZIKA-CARRYING MOSQUITO LARGELY WIPED OUT IN PUERTO RICO BY HURRICANE MARIA, CDC SAYS. Bloomberg News (9/29, Flavelle, 4.52M) reported that most of the mosquitoes that carry the Zika virus in Puetro Rico have been killed by Hurricane Maria, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As a result, the CDC has "no imminent plans to start any kind of control for those mosquitoes," CDC spokesman Thomas Skinner said in a phone interview, but warned that standing water remaining since the storm could lead to an increase again.

TWO LOS ANGELES COUNTY TOWNS REACHING OUT TO HOMELESS AHEAD OF COUNTYWIDE HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK. The Los Angeles Times (9/29, Nguyen, 4.49M) reported the cities of Burbank and Glendale "have started reaching out to the homeless in order to get them screened and vaccinated against hepatitis A," following an outbreak in Los Angeles County last week. Officials "said the outreach is being done as a precautionary measure."

POWER WASHING UNDERWAY IN SAN DIEGO TO CONTAIN HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK. The Los



<u>Angeles Times</u> (9/30, Warth, 4.49M) reported on efforts in San Diego to power wash streets and sidewalks in response to a Hepatitis A outbreak in the county. The Times explained, "the hepatitis A virus is spread through fecal matter, and homeless people are particularly vulnerable because they have limited access to toilets and places to wash their hands."

IDWEEK BEGINS THIS WEEK IN SAN DIEGO. The <u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> (10/1, Schroeder, 668K) reports "San Diego is set to host a health conference that will bring thousands of infectious disease experts to the area." IDWeek will start Wednesday and run through Sunday, and will include "an impromptu session" that will touch on San Diego's Hepatitis A outbreak.

MICROBIOLOGIST EXPLAINS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PATHOGEN VIRULENCE AND HOST RESISTANCE. Andrew F. Read, an evolutionary microbiologist at Penn State's Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics, writes a 3,415-word academic piece for <u>The Scientist</u> (10/1, 154K) explaining change sin pathogen virulence as hosts develop resistance. He highlights experiments showing "declines in pathogen virulence in the face of rising host resistance."

MERS VIRUS TRACKED TO ONE-HUMPED CAMELS. Reuters (10/1, Miles) reports MERS coronavirus (MERS-CoV), which "appears to have emerged in humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012," has "now been traced back in camels to at least 1983." MERS has so far killed at least 722 people. "Almost all the outbreaks so far originated in the Arabian Gulf, but MERS-CoV could infect humans wherever there are one-humped dromedary camels – two-humped bactrians are not affected." Maria Van Kerkhove, a disease outbreak expert at the WHO, said "the virus is in camels everywhere."

RESEARCHER AIMS TO MAP HOW BRAINS ARE AFFECTED BY IMPACTS. The Boston Globe (10/2, Freyer, 969K) reports Worcester Polytechnic Institute professor Songbai Ji "is developing animated brain maps that show how brain tissue deforms and stretches after impact." Ji aims to show football players and coaches the likely impact of each hit on a human brain. Ji's brain-mapping research is supported with a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

National News:

TRUMP: TILLERSON "WASTING HIS TIME" TALKING TO NORTH KOREA. Media coverage of President Trump's tweets Sunday about North Korea is critical with reports casting the President as undercutting Secretary of State Tillerson. NBC Nightly News (10/1, story 3, 1:15, Snow, 16.61M), for example, reported President Trump "appeared to undermine the diplomatic channel announced just yesterday by the Secretary of State," tweeting (10/1, 12.34M), "I told Rex Tillerson he's wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man." He added, "Save your energy, Rex, we'll do what has to be done." While NBC said the White House "won't say" if Trump is "suggesting military action or taunting Kim Jong-Un," ABC World News Tonight (10/1, story 2, 2:45, Llamas, 14.63M) said Trump "not only taunted Kim Jong-un, he publicly undercut" Tillerson after he visited China, "trying to broker an end to North Korea's nuclear program."

The Los Angeles Times (10/1, Wilkinson, King, 4.49M) too says Trump "undercut his top diplomat" in a "stunning rebuke" that marked "the latest incident in which Trump has publicly contradicted Tillerson and quickly dashed any hope for progress in easing perilously volatile tensions" with North Korea. USA Today (10/1, Slack, 8.62M) similarly says Trump "appeared to undercut his own secretary of State's diplomatic efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff," and the New York Times (10/1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says he "seemed to undercut his own secretary of state on Sunday as he belittled the prospect of a diplomatic resolution."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/1, Niquette, Wadhams, 4.52M) says Trump's "admonishment" of Tillerson for "wasting his time" in seeking negotiations with North Korea "further highlighted differences within the administration on how best to get Kim Jong Un to halt his nuclear weapons program." State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, however, <u>tweeted</u> after Trump's comment that while diplomatic channels are open "for now" to Kim, "they won't be open forever."



According to the AP (10/1, Lee), the tweets are "raising speculation about whether Trump could be undermining efforts to maintain channels of communication or somehow bolstering the diplomat's hand in possible future talks." The Hill (10/1, Manchester, 1.68M) reports the President's tweets came "amid the escalating crisis on the Korean Peninsula." The Washington Post (10/1, Nakamura, 10.38M) reports the President "has taken an increasingly hard-line stance toward Pyongyang over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile tests," while the Wall Street Journal (10/1, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) notes it was not the first time Trump and Tillerson have sent differing signals about North Korea, as well as other topics.

Reuters (10/1, Chiacu, Holland) reports Trump tweeted that his predecessors had all "failed" on North Korea by "Being nice to Rocket Man," so "why would it work now?" The Washington Examiner (10/1, Feldscher, 465K) reports Trump "alluded to attempts to make peace with Kim not working over the last several administrations," but noted that Kim "has only been in power since his father died in 2011." The New York Post (10/1, Moore, 4.31M), however, says it is "unclear whether Trump was referring to the Kim family, which has ruled North Korea since 1948, or just Kim Jong Un, who is just 33-years-old and took over from his father Kim Jong II in 2010."

Breitbart (10/1, Wong, 2.42M) reports Trump's tweets "suggest he is opposed to trying to negotiate with Kim Jong-Un," but cautioned that he "could also be acting as if he is opposed to Tillerson's efforts, in a good cop, bad cop routine." Former State Department officials Aaron David Miller and Richard Sokolsky write for Politico Magazine (10/1, 3.55M) that "even if they're playing good cop/bad cop, this is a shocker: Donald Trump is basically announcing that any negotiations with North Korea are worthless. This not only undercut Tillerson personally, but also undermines US interests and the secretary of state's sensible decision to talk to the North Korean regime." They argue what while many have called for Tillerson to resign, "it's magical thinking to believe that Tillerson's successor could fundamentally alter the downward trajectory of the State Department or do much more to fix the world's problems. As long as Donald Trump is president, more likely than not, the Department of State is going to remain closed for the season."

Politico (10/1, Toosi, Cohen, 3.6M) reports Trump's tweet "drew some startled reactions in the diplomatic field." Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, tweeted, "Diplomacy not a favor we dispense but a critical national security tool for ourselves. Potus truly misguided here-& SecState should resign." Carl Bildt, co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, tweeted: "President Trump spectacularly shot down SecState Tillerson after important Beijing talks. How long can this last?"

NYTimes Analysis: Trump "Relishes" Public Fights. Peter Baker writes in a New York Times (10/1, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) analysis that while "opponents, independent analysts and even some of his own advisers winced at his latest outbursts," President Trump has recently criticized the mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, "excoriating kneeling football players," and undercut "his own secretary of state." Trump, however, "was convinced that he was putting points on the board, according to those close to him." Baker writes that Trump's "view of politics is unlike that of any president in modern times. Where other occupants of the Oval Office might go out of their way to avoid public fights with hurricane victims, popular athletes or members of their own team, Mr. Trump relishes them. He thinks they make him look strong."

Poll: Trump Foreign Policy Splits Republican Party. The Washington Post (10/1, Balz, Guskin, 10.38M) reports President Trump's "often-controversial foreign policy pronouncements, which have generated criticism abroad, have produced sharp divisions within the Republican coalition, with the party badly split on the issues of trade, immigration, climate change and the value of US alliances, according to a new poll by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs." The poll's survey found that Trump's "most fervent supporters solidly support his views on these issues, but Republicans with less favorable impressions of the president are far less enthusiastic and are more closely aligned in their attitudes with the overall population."

Report: Trump Ordered "Pressure" Campaign Early In Administration. The Daily Caller (10/1, Pickrell, 521K) reports President Trump "quietly signed a government directive ordering a sweeping



pressure campaign on North Korea early on in his administration to derail the rogue regime's nuclear plans," according to a report Saturday by the <u>Washington Post</u>. The Caller writes, "It turns out the Trump administration has a very clear strategy for dealing with the rogue regime. The Department of Defense has been targeting North Korean spies and hackers, the Department of State has been encouraging foreign governments to cut ties with Pyongyang at every opportunity, and the Department of the Treasury has been tightening the noose on North Korea's economy through escalating sanctions on the regime and its supporters." At the same time, the US has been "keeping the door open for negotiation."

Italy Becomes Fifth Country To Expel North Korean Ambassador. The Washington Post (10/1, Fifield, 10.38M) reports Italy "has become the latest country to expel a North Korean ambassador," saying that isolation was "inevitable" if Pyongyang continued to push ahead with its nuclear weapons program. Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano said the North Korean ambassador in Rome, Mun Jong Nam, had been ordered to leave. "We want to make Pyongyang realize that their isolation is inevitable if they don't change tack," Alfano told Italian newspaper la Repubblica in an interview published Sunday.

North Korean Ship Carrying Weapons For Egypt Seized. The Washington Post (10/1, Warrick, 10.38M) reports that last August, "a secret message was passed from Washington to Cairo warning about a mysterious vessel steaming toward the Suez Canal." The freighter named Jie Shun "was flying Cambodian colors but had sailed from North Korea, the warning said, with a North Korean crew and an unknown cargo shrouded by heavy tarps." Egyptian officials seized a cache of "more than 30,000 rocket-propelled grenades," the "largest seizure of ammunition in the history of sanctions" against North Korea. A UN investigation ultimately "uncovered a complex arrangement in which Egyptian business executives ordered millions of dollars worth of North Korean rockets for the country's military while also taking pains to keep the transaction hidden, according to US officials and Western diplomats familiar with the findings." The incident "prompted the latest in a series of intense, if private, US complaints over Egyptian efforts to obtain banned military hardware from Pyongyang, the officials said."

Group: Kim Jong Un's Nephew Was In Danger After Father's Assassination. The Wall Street Journal (10/1, Gale, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that when Kim Jong Nam, the exiled half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was assassinated in a Malaysian airport on Feb. 13, his 21-year-old son, Kim Han Sol, was believed to be the next target. A group of North Korean dissidents known as the Cheollima Civil Defense moved quickly to get Kim Han Sol, his mother, and sister out of their Macau home and fly them to a secure location.

Former WPost Reporter: China Losing Leverage Over Kim. Blaine Harden, former Post reporter and consultant to the Frontline documentary "North Korea's Deadly Dictator" airing on PBS on Oct. 4, writes in the Washington Post (10/1, 10.38M) that "to the frustration of President Trump, China seems to be losing leverage over the young dictator next door." While the Kim regime "has become more dependent than ever on Chinese trade," that dependence is "clearly not swaying the behavior of Kim Jong Un."

TRUMP BLASTS CRITICS OF ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO HURRICANE MARIA. Media coverage of the Administration response to Hurricane Maria focuses heavily on the President's tweets yesterday (particularly his comments concerning San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz) and is decidedly negative, casting Trump as lashing out and questioning the accuracy of his claims.

Trump on Sunday morning "defended his administration's response to the humanitarian disaster in Puerto Rico, dismissing any critics of his relief efforts as 'fake news' and 'politically motivated ingrates,'" <u>USA Today</u> (10/1, Jackson, Slack, 8.62M) reports. In a <u>pair</u> of <u>tweets</u>, Trump wrote, "We have done a great job with the almost impossible situation in Puerto Rico. ... Outside of the Fake News or politically motivated ingrates...people are now starting to recognize the amazing work that has been done by FEMA and our great Military." In a third <u>tweet</u>, "Trump had kind words for Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, thanking him and 'all of those who are working so closely with our First Responders. Fantastic job!" The <u>New York Post</u> (10/1, Moore, 4.31M) describes Trump as "lash[ing] out" and "ramping up his feud with the mayor of San Juan and the 'Fake News' media for their criticism of his response to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria."



Politico (10/1, Cohen, 3.6M) says Trump's Sunday tweets "were in contrast to some he wrote Saturday in which he assailed" Cruz "and the news media – and seemingly mocked the population of Puerto Rico as lazy." Politico adds that it also "wasn't clear whether Trump's claims Sunday were true. CNN, for instance, quoted the governor of Puerto Rico as saying that some areas of the island remain basically isolated, casting doubt on Trump's claim that 'all buildings now inspected."

The AP (10/1, Colvin) says Trump "spent Saturday ensconced in his New Jersey golf club and on Sunday attended an international golf competition near New York City," and "appeared unconcerned with the optics of spending his Sunday afternoon watching The Presidents Cup at the Liberty National Golf Club as the crisis continued." NJ News (10/1, 1.21M) reports that as Trump awarded the Presidents Cup trophy to the US team on Sunday, he discussed "golf and hurricane relief." Trump said, "On behalf of all of the people of Texas and all of the people of – if you look today and see what's happening, how horrible it is, though we have it under really great control in Puerto Rico. ... And the people of Florida, who have really suffered over this last short period of time with the hurricanes, I want to just remember them and we're going to dedicate this trophy to all of those people that went through so much."

Julie Pace of the AP said on <u>CNN Inside Politics</u> (10/1, 2.14M), "For the President, everything comes down to winning and losing. And he watches the coverage right now, he is seeing people, either officials or Puerto Ricans who are being critical of the federal response and he believes that that reflects poorly on him. So he wants to push back and make it sound like he is actually winning this. But in doing that, in framing it in that context, he's really losing sight of what we're actually talking about."

Administration officials also spoke out in defense of the Administration response on Sunday. The Hill (10/1, Savransky, 1.68M) reports, "White House officials on Sunday were united in blaming factors beyond their control for Puerto Rico's struggle to recover from hurricane damage." Business Insider (10/1, 3.83M) says, "The White House has increasingly attempted to spin its response to Maria – which many have criticized as slow to recognize the extent of devastation – as a success."

OMB Director Mulvaney also took aim at Cruz, Politico (10/1, Temple-West, 3.6M) reports. Mulvaney told CNN's State Of The Union (10/1, Tapper, 2.43M), "My understanding is that as of yesterday, she had not even been to the FEMA operation center in her own city. ... It is unfortunate that the San Juan mayor wants to sort of go against the grain. We'd love to have her on the team as we all pull in the same direction." The Hill (10/1, Beavers, 1.68M) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin also "defended" the President for his "series of attacks" against Cruz. Appearing on NBC's Meet the Press (10/1, Todd, 3.28M), Mnuchin said, "When the President gets attacked, he attacks back, and I think the mayor's comments were unfair, given what the federal government has done."

National Economic Council Director Cohn told <u>Fox News Sunday Morning Futures</u> (10/1, Bartiromo, 3.24M) that he wanted to "reiterate how involved the Administration continues to be." He noted that "the United States has gone through extraordinary efforts to deliver goods to the island" and that currently, "our big challenge to get those goods delivered to the citizens of the island that need those goods."

FEMA Administrator Long also defended Administration efforts on <u>ABC's This Week</u> (10/1, 2.72M), saying, "We have been working with mayors all around Puerto Rico to make sure we have a strategy" and "that we execute the strategy going forward." He said that the mayor of San Juan does "have access to commodities" as "we have established 11 regional distribution hubs." Long told <u>Fox News Sunday</u> (10/1, Wallace, 1.25M) that "the bottom line is this is the most logistically challenging event the United States has ever seen and we have been moving and pushing as fast as the situation allows." <u>USA Today</u> (10/1, Slack, 8.62M) that in response to Long's claim on Fox, "social media users quickly shot back, outlining other significant logistical challenges the US has tackled in its history."

Axios (10/1, Allen, 303K) reports that it obtained a leaked update, sent by Homeland Security Adviser Bossert to West Wing colleagues, "that points to a rapid recovery no one on the ground is witnessing" in Puerto Rico. In the memo, Bossert says, "The storm caused these problems, not our response to it. We have pushed about as much stuff and people through a tiny hole in as short a timeframe as possible." In a separate story, The Hill (10/1, Manchester, 1.68M) reports Bossert "said the federal government has 'a



strong ground game' in Puerto Rico...despite dire reports from residents and journalists on the island." He stated in the memo obtained by Axios: "We have a strong ground game in place on the island with military leadership. [Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo] Rossello should continue to get more public messaging support from us." Newsmax (10/1, Burke, 416K) says Bossert "outlin[ed] a public relations campaign to promote rapid stabilization and a 'bright future,' Axios reported." Bossert added in his message that President Trump's visit to the island on Tuesday "will inspire the people and let them know we all care."

The <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (10/1, Danner, 519K) says that despite Bossert's suggestions, the "reality of the humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico...has rarely lined up with the Trump administration's optimistic takes on the situation. Criticism of federal relief efforts continues to intensify as many of the supplies that have been delivered to the island remain out of the hands of the communities that need them." Citing Trump's tweets Sunday morning, <u>Mother Jones</u> (10/1, West, 1.03M) says the President "appears to be ignoring whatever positive PR strategy his adviser Bossert is going with."

Reuters (10/1, Respaut, Stargardter) reports that lawmakers on Sunday urged Trump to "stop sniping" at Cruz and "get to work helping them recover." Senate Minority Leader Schumer told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the relief effort has been "slow footed, disorganized and not adequate. ... The president, instead of tweeting against the mayor of San Juan who's watching her people die and just made a plea for help, ought to roll up his sleeves and get to work here."

Bloomberg News (10/1, Levin, 4.52M) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders "bridled at the administration's continued attacks on Cruz," telling CNN's State Of The Union (10/1, Tapper, 2.43M), "Speaking from his fancy golf club, playing golf with his billionaire friends, attacking the mayor of San Juan, who is struggling to bring electricity to the island, food to the island, water to the island, gas to the island, that is just – it is unspeakable." Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee said on MSNBC's Politics Nation (10/1, 1.51M), "I applaud Mayor Cruz for taking him on because, unfortunately, he does not know the topography or he does not know Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico happens to have many cities. Mayor Cruz made it very clear that what she is speaking of is those individuals, those mayors, those small governments beyond San Juan who cannot speak for themselves who are facing the devastation of bodies, the devastation of dead animals, the lack of water, having to travel an hour and a half for a bag of groceries, roads that are impassable. And the President failed on this, absolutely failed."

Criticism also came from inside Trump's party on Sunday. Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on CNN's State Of The Union (10/1, Tapper, 2.43M), "When people are in the middle of a disaster, you don't start trying to criticize them." He added, "What's happening down there is just terrible. And maybe part of it is storm fatigue." He concluded that "when you get behind the curve on a natural disaster, you get behind the curve, you just play catch-up all the way and it never works out the way you want it to."

Sen. Marco Rubio said on <u>CBS' Face The Nation</u> (10/1, Dickerson, 3.09M), "Every minute we spend in the political realm bickering with one another over who's doing what, or who's wrong, or who didn't do right is a minute of energy and time that we're not spending trying to get the response right."

Susan Ferrechio of the Washington Examiner said on Fox News MediaBuzz (10/1, 3.15M), "Let's try to imagine an alternative universe where Hillary Clinton were President right now. What do you think the narrative would look like? Do you really think it would be the San Juan mayor proclaiming people are dying and we are not getting any help? I think that he did well with Texas and Florida and Democrats were really looking for a way to turn Puerto Rico into a Katrina-like disaster for Trump."

Katie Pavlich of Townhall.com said on Fox News MediaBuzz (10/1, 3.15M), "I think they are not pointing out in fairness of yes, the San Juan mayor is saying these things, but the governor is out praising the President's response and saying, 'Yes this is a difficult situation. We need more help, obviously. This is not going to be over in the week coming. It's going to be a long-term process.' But they tried to pin all this on the President and ignore the timeline of what the Department of Homeland Security has done and try to get those people on the ground to distribute those supplies."

San Juan Mayor Says She Is Willing To Meet With Trump. Meanwhile, the Washington Post (10/1,



Snell, 10.38M) reports that as Trump "continued to praise the relief effort and the US government response," Cruz on Sunday "called for more, better coordinated federal aid...to deal with the widespread storm damage in Puerto Rico." In an appearance on ABC's This Week (10/1, 2.72M), Cruz "avoided directly criticizing Trump...and attempted to refocus the discussion on speeding aid and supplies to people on the island territory." Cruz said, "All I did last week, or even this week, was ask for help. ... It has to happen in a sustained manner. It has to happen quickly." Cruz also "said she would be willing to meet with Trump during his planned visit to Puerto Rico this week." The Wall Street Journal (10/1, Mauldin, Bender, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) says Cruz took a different tone on NBC's "Meet the Press," saying of Trump's comments, "Bring it on. I'm here," and he can "attack me all he wants." David Wright said on ABC World News Tonight (10/1, story 2, 2:45, Llamas, 14.63M) that while Cruz has said she is willing to meet with Trump, "it's not clear the invitation has been given."

A <u>Politico</u> (10/1, Karni, 3.6M) analysis says "Cruz's frustration with the layers of bureaucracy standing between her wiped-out city and food and water delivery might have been in line with Trump's own interest in cutting regulations and red tape," but her "plea was interpreted by Trump as a personal insult." Politico adds that "longtime Trump watchers" saw his "personal reaction to Cruz [as] par for the course," for Trump, who "has gone after morning show hosts like Mika Brzezinski, lawmakers from his own party, like Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, members of his own Cabinet...and even taken on the NFL. And it was in line with how he has reacted to individuals who criticize him personally for years." In a profile of Cruz, the <u>AP</u> (10/1, Coto) says she has risen "to international prominence as a target of Twitter attacks." The AP adds that Cruz's critics "have questioned her management style, noting that some early supporters – including people who occupied key positions – have resigned or been dismissed."

Rosselló Says A Surge Of Fuel And Supplies Has Begun Reaching Puerto Rico. The New York Times (10/1, Fausset, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Rosselló said Sunday that "a surge of fuel and food supplies and federal government personnel has begun to arrive" on the island. According to Rosselló, "over the next two days, more than half a million barrels of diesel fuel and nearly a million barrels of gasoline would reach Puerto Rico." In addition, Rosselló "said that the Defense Department had increased its footprint on Puerto Rico to 6,400 people, from roughly 4,600 two days earlier, with more coming, and that other federal agencies were also sending more staff to aid in the island's recovery." On the CBS Weekend News (10/1, story 2, 2:20, Quijano), correspondent David Begnaud reported that Rosselló "warned" Sunday "that he believes there could be a mass exodus of Puerto Ricans to the US mainland unless Congress passes a financial aid package soon."

Tom Llamas reported in the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (10/1, lead story, 2:35, 14.63M) that FEMA has approved "63,000 applications for \$7 million worth of assistance," and "delivered 2 million liters of water and 1 million meals." Alex Perez added that Navy hospital ship Comfort is "arriving this week. 6,400 troops already on the ground. With communications crippled, the general now in charge of military operations here, says the challenge is finding where the needs are so they can be met." Ron Mott presented a more negative picture on NBC Nightly News (10/1, story 2, 1:50, Snow, 16.61M), saying, "We spent the day looking for people getting emergency aid that's supposed to be flowing out of 11 FEMA distribution centers to local authorities around the island. What we found was confusion. Local officials couldn't point us to the centers where people could get relief supplies."

Guaynabo Mayor Casts Doubt On Cruz's Claims. The Daily Caller (9/30, 521K) reports that Guaynabo Mayor Angel Perez on Saturday "cast serious doubt" on Cruz's claims. Perez said "that his experience with the federal government has been different from Cruz's, in part because – unlike Cruz – he has been participating in meetings with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies." Perez said, "My experience is different. I have been participating in different meetings at the headquarters of FEMA and our government and the help is coming in and right now my experience is different from hers. I'm receiving help from the government, we are receiving assistance from FEMA, I got people over here helping us with applications for the people that have damage in their houses. And we have here in Guaynabo, we have thousands of people that lost partially or totally their houses."

Residents Scramble For Food, Water, Fuel As Shortages Grip Puerto Rico. Reuters (10/1, Respaut,



Brown) highlights shortages on the island, reporting that residents are "scrambl[ing] for all the staples of modern society – food, water, fuel, medicine, currency – in a grinding survival struggle that has gripped Puerto Ricans across social classes." Reuters adds that "severe shortages have thrown even relatively affluent Puerto Ricans into the same plight as the hundreds of thousands of poor residents here." On The CBS Weekend News (10/1, story 12, 1:55, Quijano), Dr. John LaPook reported from an elementary school that is serving as a shelter for people who "have been displaced, really no place to go because of the hurricane."

The New York Times (10/1, Healy, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that on the island of Vieques, eight miles east of Puerto Rico, "solitude used to be an allure of life," but in Maria's wake, "that solitude is a big problem." Vieques' 9,000 residents "have been largely cut off from the world for 11 days since Hurricane Maria hit, with no power or communications and, for many, no running water." The Wall Street Journal (10/1, Hernandez, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) highlights the impact Maria has on the beachside town of Humacao, about an hour southeast of San Juan.

A front-page story in the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/1, A1, Schmidt, Hernández, 10.38M) reports that "an unknown number of families are still trapped in this part of Utuado, much of which is inaccessible nearly two weeks after the storm." The Post says that if aid has been "slow to reach Puerto Rico as a whole, getting help to isolated communities such as Utuado has been taking even longer" to reach "these rural neighborhoods, tucked between mountain ranges and nestled along murky river beds." Hector Ruiz, a utility worker hired by the Utuado municipality to clear its roads, "estimated that it will take at least one more month to make the entire highway in Utuado accessible."

LAWSUIT CLAIMS REFINERY, CHEMICAL PLANT IMPROPERLY DIVERTED FLOOD WATERS DURING HARVEY. The <u>CBS Weekend News</u> (10/1, story 11, 2:25, Quijano) reported that 150 families are suing an oil refinery and chemical plant that they say "intentionally diverted flood waters into their neighborhood in Sweeny, Texas" during Hurricane Harvey. The lawsuit against the Phillips-66 refinery and the Chevron-Phillips chemical plant claims that, "by damming two nearby bayous with no warning, the companies knowingly pushed flood water away from the plant and into neighborhoods." Chevron-Phillips has yet to respond, but Phillips-66 said their priorities during the flooding "were to protect people and the environment." A Phillips-66 spokesman also "says the refinery will review what happened and share their findings."

MOST OF FLORIDA KEYS REOPEN SUNDAY. The <u>CBS Weekend News</u> (10/1, story 3, 0:25, Quijano) reported that three weeks after Hurricane Irma's impact, most of the Florida Keys reopened on Sunday to tourists. Although Sunday's reopening "came several weeks earlier than expected, parts of the Keys are still severely damaged and remain closed to visitors."

AFTER TRUMP AGAIN CALLS TO END PROTESTS, FEWER NFL PLAYERS KNEEL DURING ANTHEM. On ABC World News Tonight (10/1, story 7, 1:35, Llamas, 14.63M), Ron Claiborne reported, "Across the NFL, players once again taking a knee during the national anthem" on Sunday. "The new protests following the President's tweet on Saturday, 'Very important that NFL player stand tomorrow and always for the playing of our national anthem. Respect our flag and our country!' Oakland's Marshawn Lynch getting ready for his game with a shirt reading, 'Everybody versus Trump.' In San Francisco, 30 49ers players once again protesting and taking a knee, like their former Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who initially sparked the uproar with his protests against alleged police mistreatment of minorities. ... But today, far fewer players knelt during 'the Star-Spangled Banner.' No owners joined them. Where there were protests, the reaction in the stands was far more muted than a week ago."

On the <u>CBS Weekend News</u> (10/1, story 6, 1:50, Quijano), Tony Dokoupil reported that Trump "first raised the issue last month, re-upped it in tweets all week, and drew a new line in the sand late Saturday. 'Very important that NFL players stand tomorrow and always,' he wrote. 'Respect our flag.'" Dokoupil added, "Last week, more than a hundred NFL players sat, knelt or raised their fist during the anthem. Some followed this afternoon, though more opted to stand linking arms, praying, even singing. The controversy has also spread to high schools. On Friday, two players in Texas were kicked off their team for protests during the anthem. Their coach is a veteran."



Under the headline "Fewer NFL Players Kneel During Anthem As Trump Repeats Call For Protest To End," Reuters (10/1, Radnage, Woodall) reports, "Several dozen NFL players, fewer than last week, chose to kneel during the US national anthem before league games on Sunday, a day after...Trump again demanded an end to a protest he sees as a sign of disrespect for the flag. At least 40 players, most of them on the San Francisco 49ers, bent a knee during pre-game renditions of the" anthem "in the 14 [NFL] games played so far on Sunday, compared with 180 players in all 16 games a week earlier." The Wall Street Journal (10/1, Beaton, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) headlines its report "NFL Protests Are More Muted."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/1, Richardson, 541K) reports that during a game played Sunday in London, England, "three Miami Dolphins knelt during the anthem, then stood for 'God Save the Queen." <u>Breitbart</u> (10/1, Gwinn, 2.42M) reports that the Baltimore Ravens took "a knee before the playing of the anthem, and then [stood] during it. In response, a stream of boos...descended on the players from the assembled crowd at M&T Bank Stadium." The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/1, Boren, Kilgore, 10.38M) reports that on Sunday, "NFL teams and players demonstrated again in a variety of ways, from players making individual statements along sidelines to pregame attire aimed at Trump to entire teams kneeling before the anthem or locking arms during the song."

Ryan: On Racial Issues, Trump's "Heart's In The Right Place." House Speaker Paul Ryan on Sunday was asked on CBS' Face The Nation (10/1, Dickerson, 3.09M) about race in America, in the context of the recent violence in Charlottesville, Virginia; the NFL protests; and other events. Ryan said of Trump, "I know his heart's in the right place." Ryan said he knew this after "some candid conversations about this, especially during that time" around the Charlottesville unrest, and that "what matters is that we have to show people that we are inclusive society, that we want everyone to succeed." Ryan also said he thinks NFL players had a right to express themselves under the First Amendment. He added that people who think the kneeling of NFL players was disrespectful to the flag don't "see the point" the players are trying to make.

Sanders: NFL Protests Are About Criminal Justice Reform. Sen. Bernie Sanders on Sunday was asked on CNN's State Of The Union (10/1, Tapper, 2.43M) about the ongoing feud between Trump and NFL players. Sanders said, "Let's not worry about the politics of what's going on," but instead discuss "why players are doing what they're doing." He added that there is a criminal justice crisis in the US, saying the nation has more people "in jail than any other major country on earth." Sanders said he thinks the players are "talking about...the need for criminal justice reform."

Vincent: NFL Leadership Has Been Slow To Detail League Policy On Protests. In a Wall Street Journal (10/1, Vincent, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, former Major League Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent discusses the NFL anthem protests, saying that in sports, it's up to commissioners to offer a response to the pressure from the public and to specify what is acceptable behavior on the part of a league's players. Commissioners, says Vincent, must rapidly explain that the disruption of games or the offending of paying customers crosses a line. Vincent says that the NFL has yet to address these issues, and he suggests that ex-Secretaries of State James Baker or Condoleezza Rice would perhaps be a good choice to, on the NFL's behalf, offer a statement of league governance regarding the protests.

Citing Anthem Protests, Renacci Canceled Ad Buy Slated For Sunday NFL Game. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (9/29, Richardson, 927K) reported that Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Gov. John Kasich (R-OH), on Friday said "he would pull a \$20,000 ad buy scheduled to air during National Football League games this weekend in response to player protests." Renacci "said he was pulling the ads from Sunday's Cincinnati Bengals-Cleveland Browns matchup after players last week knelt during the national anthem in response to President Donald Trump's attacks on their earlier protests."

In a news article, the <u>Columbus (OH) Dispatch</u> (9/29, Ludlow, 456K) flatly asserted that Renacci "is wrapping himself in red, white and blue in quickly canceling a TV spot his campaign had purchased



during the [Bengals-Browns] game on Sunday." In a statement, Renacci – running in a crowded GOP primary – said, "While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it's the right thing to do. ... And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for."

MULVANEY: TAXPAYER-FUNDED TRAVEL MAY BE LEGAL BUT NOT "RIGHT." Director Mulvaney was asked on Fox News Sunday (10/1, Wallace, 1.25M) about a memo he sent to all executive agency heads saying they need prior approval from the White House chief of staff to fly on a government or private plane and stressing that "every penny we spend comes from the tax payer. Just because something is legal doesn't make it right." Mulvaney said, "I thought it was the clearest way to articulate what the President believes. ... My guess is...we will find out that all of this travel is entirely legal. The question is whether or not it's right. I think that's the lens the President wants to look at this travel through, not just whether or not it follows the law."

Julie Pace of the AP said on <u>CNN Inside Politics</u> (10/1, 2.14M) that this "gets to the core promise that Trump made which is that he was going to cut down on all of this – all of these weird conflicts of interest, overspending on the taxpayer expense. That's what he was going to get rid of. And his voters, that promise means a lot to them. And he knows if he has these optics…that some of his voters won't view that very kindly."

MNUCHIN SAYS USE OF GOVERNMENT PLANE FOR KENTUCKY TRIP WAS "COMPLETELY JUSTIFIABLE." Reuters (10/1, Harte) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin told NBC's "Meet the Press" that his use of a government lane to travel to Kentucky with his wife in August was "completely justifiable" and that he does not regret it. Mnuchin said, "It was approved by the White House and there were reasons why we needed to use that plane that are completely justifiable."

Susan Ferrechio of the Washington Examiner said on Fox News MediaBuzz (10/1, 3.15M), "Where was this careful examination during the Obama Administration. Leon Panetta used to fly home every weekend to the tune of \$800,000 and not one really cared about it. That story never had legs. Other administrations have done this and I am glad it is getting a lot of scrutiny now. ... But again, the radar goes up for the Trump Administration."

Katie Pavlich of Townhall.com said on Fox News MediaBuzz (10/1, 3.15M), "To be fair, the Obama Administration didn't have a mantra or slogan of making sure taxpayer money was spent in a way that was helpful and not beneficial to the Washington, DC swamp, so to speak. Yes, this has been done by previous administrations. It certainly deserved as much scrutiny they are giving it now. I think going forward, the Trump Administration is actually going to have to come up with a policy rather than just letting Tom Price go as if he is the only person taking advantage of these taxpayer funded flight loopholes. Why is it not okay for Tom Price to do it but okay for the Treasury Secretary to do it?"

AT LEAST 50 KILLED, 200 WOUNDED IN MASS SHOOTING ON LAS VEGAS STRIP. Morning news is being dominated by the breaking story of last night's mass shooting at an open-air concert in Las Vegas. Media are reporting authorities say that the attack – from an upper-level room in the Mandalay Bay hotel – was the work of a lone gunman, a local man who was slain by police, though they are searching for a woman connected to the shooter. There is no speculation so far that it is an act of terrorism. The current death toll reportedly is at least 50, with more than 200 wounded.

CBS News (10/2, 4.42M) reports, "A law enforcement source told CBS News a search warrant has been issued for the home of the shooter, identified as Stephen Paddock, of Mesquite, Nevada. Police there told CBS News the suspect was white, in his 60s, had been living in a retirement community and hadn't had any run-ins with law enforcement." CBS adds that during a late-night press conference, Las Vegas Sheriff Joe Lombardo was asked whether "authorities think the shooting was an act of terrorism," and he said, "No. Not at this point. ... We don't know what his belief system was at this time." Reuters (10/2) reports, "The death toll, which police emphasized was preliminary and tentative, would make the attack the



deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history, eclipsing last year's massacre of 49 people at an Orlando night club."

The AP (10/2, Ho) reports, "Officers confronted the suspect on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino across the street from the concert and he was killed," Lombardo told reporters. "Concert-goers reported hearing what they described as automatic gun fire during the shooting. Lombardo said they believe this was a 'lone wolf' attack but said they were looking for a roommate of the dead suspect as a person of interest." CNN (10/2, Jones, Vonberg, 33.59M) reports, "Off-duty police officers are among the dead," Lombardo said in the late-night press conference. "Two police officers are also being treated for injuries – one officer is in critical condition and the other has minor injuries."

The <u>Las Vegas Review-Journal</u> (10/2, Katsilometes, 458K) reports Lombardo said authorities "were looking for Marilou Danley, a woman traveling with the suspect." The Review-Journal adds, "The attack came during the last performances on the final night of the three-day Route 91 country music festival." Concertgoer Ivetta Saldana told the Review-Journal, "It was a horror show," and another witness, Robyn Webb, is quoted as saying, "It just kept coming. It was relentless." The <u>New York Times</u> (10/2, Mullany, Goldman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) posts eye-witness video taken during the shooting.

Trump Tweets "Condolences And Sympathies" To Victims, Families. President Trump <u>tweeted</u> this morning, "My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!"

MANY "KEY WITNESSES" HAVE YET TO SPEAK TO HILL RUSSIA PROBES. The Washington Examiner (10/1, Shepherd, 465K) reports that "many key witnesses" in the congressional investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 election "have yet to say a word to either the House or Senate Intelligence Committees, or the Senate Judiciary Committee." The Examiner lists "the top remaining interviews the committees want," noting that "their testimony could yet shape how the probes finish their work." They include: Paul Manafort, Mike Flynn, Michael Cohen, Sean Spicer, and Carter Page.

In Weissmann, Manafort Is Facing A "Relentless" Prosecutor. The Washington Times (10/1, Scarborough, 541K) reports that while associates of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort say he "has nothing incriminating to offer Special Counsel Robert Mueller," Manafort is "up against one of the Justice Department's most relentless prosecutors." Andrew Weissmann "has an operational history of going after the relatively small to snare the big." Appeals lawyer Sidney Powell said, "I would bet the indictment will be right before Thanksgiving. ... Weissmann will want to maximize the trauma to his family." People who know Manafort "suggest that the trail to finding Russia-Trump collusion has become so cold that Mr. Mueller's game of hardball led by Mr. Weissmann is a last-ditch effort to scare Mr. Manafort into becoming a prosecution witness." However, Manafort associates say he is not cooperating because he "has nothing to reveal and has witnessed no illegal collusion." The Times cites "a source familiar with the investigation" who said a raid of Manafort's condo found nothing incriminating.

Facebook To Turn 3,000 Russia-Linked Ads Over To Congress. The New York Times (10/1, Isaac, Shane, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Facebook "said on Sunday that it planned to turn over more than 3,000 Russian-linked advertisements to congressional investigators on Monday." The move "is the latest attempt by a major technology company to disclose the scope of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election." While Facebook "has yet to disclose the types of advertisements and content the company will hand over," news reports "have linked the posts to issues such as religion, race, gun ownership and other politically charged topics."

POLL: REPUBLICAN MOORE LEADS JONES 50.2%-44.5% IN ALABAMA SENATE RACE. BuzzFeed (9/29, Miller, 6.64M) reported that an Opinion Savvy poll of 590 Alabama likely voters, taken Sept. 27-26, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore (R) leading ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) 50.2%-45.5% in the Dec. 12 special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions. The poll was "commissioned by Decision Desk HQ." Moore last week unseated appointed Sen. Luther Strange (R) in the special GOP primary runoff.



Blasting Moore, Trump And Senate GOP Leadership, WPost Decries Republican "Rot." In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/1, 10.38M) says, "It was dispiriting that...Moore won the" GOP primary runoff "the same week that Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) announced he would be leaving it. But the rot runs deeper than either event would suggest. When Senate leadership is content with the kind of process and dishonesty we witnessed with health-care and now tax 'reform,' neither event should come as a big surprise." The Post says "Moore is unfit to be a senator" and there are "similarities between [President] Trump and the insurgent judge. Both have questioned Barack Obama's citizenship and displayed disdain for the rule of law," for example. The Post adds that "if the Republican leadership is afraid of what Mr. Moore could bring to Washington, it may want to reconsider the wisdom of opening the door to his hate-filled appeals and disruptive behavior by backing Mr. Trump in the first place."

BANNON REPORTEDLY SUPPORTING MORRISEY'S BID TO UNSEAT MANCHIN. The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (10/1, Zuckerman, 22K) reports that Steve Bannon has "stepped behind" West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's (R) 2018 bid to unseat Sen. Joe Manchin (D). The Gazette-Mail says that Bannon "has offered his personal support to...Morrisey and interviewed him on Breitbart's radio show Thursday." Though a spokesperson for Rep. Evan Jenkins (R), "Morrisey's main opponent in the Republican primary, downplayed the news, the attorney general's campaign sounded off on the backing by the far-right, nationalist publication." Said Morrisey spokesperson Nachama Soloveichik, "Steve Bannon is a leader in the conservative movement and one of President Trump's strongest supporters. ... If Steve Bannon wants to help spread Patrick's conservative message, he can be a tremendous help and make a big impact on this race."

Justice Says He's Yet To Endorse A Candidate In Manchin's Reelection Race. The AP (9/29) reported that West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice (R) on Friday said that he's yet to offer an endorsement in Manchin's reelection race. After having won election in 2016 "as a Democrat with Manchin's support, Justice recently switched to the" GOP – "an announcement he made with President Donald Trump at a Charleston rally in August. At a meeting with West Virginia's Republican lawmakers on Sept. 18, Justice was urged to help beat Manchin," but instead lauded him "as a friend who is also Trump's liaison with the Democrats" – leading "to some media reports speculating that he was supporting Manchin's re-election." However, Justice on Friday told reporters "he probably won't endorse anyone until next year at an appropriate time."

COHN: WITHOUT BEVY OF GOP RETIREMENTS, HARD FOR DEMOCRATS TO TAKE HOUSE.

Writing in "The Upshot" blog on the website of the New York Times (9/29, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), Nate Cohn said that "Democrats would be overwhelming favorites to retake the House in this political environment if no incumbents chose to run for re-election, even with all of the burdens of gerrymandering and geography." To date in this election cycle, "four Republicans have announced they will not seek re-election in highly competitive districts." And "without a string of retirements, the Democratic path to control of the House is challenging." Cohn added, "Over the last decade or so, incumbents have run about seven percentage points ahead of non-incumbents from the same party in similar districts. That's more than enough to let incumbents in competitive districts survive, even in so-called wave elections like the ones that swept Democrats into power in the House in 2006 and back out in 2010." Democrats need a net gain of 24 seats in 2018 to retake the House.

Pelosi: Trump "Self-Immolating," Democrats Have "Very Excellent" Chance Of Taking House. The New York Times (9/30, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) featured excerpts from an interview with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who said that though she had been considering retirement, "One of the reasons I stayed here is because I thought Hillary Clinton would win, we'd have a woman president and so there would be a woman not at a seat at the table, but at the head of the table for the world." When Clinton lost the election to Donald Trump "I couldn't walk away and say, O.K., just let all the men have the seats at the table that are making decisions for our country." Pelosi "said that Democrats have a 'very excellent' chance of recapturing the House majority in 2018," due in part to the actions of Trump, who she said was "self-immolating."

CORKER STANDS BY COMMENTS ON TRUMP'S COMPETENCE, STABILITY. <u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/1, Niquette, 4.52M) reports Sen. Bob Corker said on <u>NBC's Meet the Press</u> on Sunday that he stands



by the comments he made following President Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville, saying that Trump "has not yet demonstrated some of the competence and some of the stability" needed as President. He further observed that Trump's criticism of Republican congressional leaders is causing resentment within the party. Corker also, however, "said...that Trump has made positive changes in the White House with new chief of staff John Kelly, responded well to hurricanes that hit Texas and Florida, and showed courage in changing his position on increasing troop levels in Afghanistan."

Haslam Under Fire From Both Sides As He Mulls Bid To Succeed Corker. The AP (9/29, Schelzig) reported that Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam's (R) foes "on both sides of the" aisle "aren't waiting for him to make up his mind about a" possible 2018 bid to succeed retiring Sen. Bob Corker (R) "before launching attacks on the Republican." The AP said "the Tennessee Democratic Party and the conservative website Breitbart News" have targeted Haslam over "the federal investigation into a diesel rebate scam at his family's truck stop chain, Pilot Flying J. Fourteen members of the Pilot sales staff have pleaded guilty to charges related to bilking unsuspecting trucking companies, while another four, including the company's former president, await trial on Oct. 31." In addition, Breitbart, "which is run by former White House strategist Steve Bannon, also criticized Haslam for failing to denounce his brother, Cleveland Browns owner Jimmy Haslam, for defending his players' right to protest during the national anthem after they were criticized by President Donald Trump."

Breitbart (10/1, Leahy, 2.42M) reported that Haslam "alienated conservative Republicans earlier this year when he pushed a 6 cents per gallon gas tax increase through the" state legislature "and signed the hike into law despite the state's \$1 billion surplus. Conservative state legislators and activists charged that Haslam's family-owned" business, "Pilot Flying J based in Knoxville, appears to be in a position to benefit financially from the 6 cents per gallon gas tax increase and 10 cents per gallon diesel tax increase championed by the governor that went into effect on July 1."

KASICH: IF GOP "CAN'T BE FIXED...I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE PARTY." The Hill (10/1, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reported that during a Sunday appearance on CNN's "State of the Union," Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) "said if the GOP does not fix itself, he won't be able to continue supporting his own party." Said Kasich, "If the party can't be fixed...then I'm not going to be able to support the party." Kasich added, "I'm worried about our country and my kids' future. But have I given up? Of course not." Kasich "shut down the suggestion that he is planning to become an independent but emphasized the need for the GOP to reform. 'No, not at this – what I'm saying to you is we need to fix it,' he said when asked about becoming an Independent. 'If the Republican Party is going to be anti-immigration, if it's not going to be worried about debt, if it's going to be anti-trade, this is not where our party can be." Breitbart (10/1, Poor, 2.42M) also reported on Kasich's remarks.

MANDEL-COMMISSIONED POLL SHOWS HIM UP BIG IN OHIO'S GOP SENATE PRIMARY. The Hill (9/29, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that a Remington Research Group (R) survey of 1,268 Ohio likely Republican primary voters shows state Treasurer Josh Mandel leading businessman Mike Gibbons 50%-5% in the 2018 GOP Senate primary. The poll was commissioned by Mandel's campaign. The report doesn't say when the poll was in the field. The candidates are vying for the right to face off against Sen. Sherrod Brown (D) in next year's election. Brown defeated Mandel "by 6 points in 2012."

WPOST ANALYSIS: GOP HOPEFUL GILLESPIE POSTING UNDERWHELMING FUNDRAISING NUMBERS. The Washington Post (9/30, Vozzella, Nirappil, 10.38M) reported that ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R), who is battling Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) in this fall's race to succeed term-limited Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D-VA), "has raised considerably less money than other recent contenders for Virginia governor, despite his extraordinarily deep ties to the Republican donor class." The Post said that the "former Washington lobbyist, [RNC] chairman and counselor to President George W. Bush" offers the GOP its "only shot for flipping a governorship this year," but he "raised just \$10 million through Aug. 31, well below the nearly \$15 million haul of...Northam – and behind what every other gubernatorial hopeful has raised for the past three cycles when those figures are adjusted for inflation."

SANDERS: "PREMATURE" TO TALK ABOUT WHETHER MENENDEZ SHOULD RESIGN IF CONVICTED. The Hill (10/1, Beavers, 1.68M) reported that during a Sunday appearance on CNN's



"State of the Union," Sen. Bernie Sanders on Sunday said that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) – in the midst of a federal corruption trial – "deserves 'due process' when asked whether the New Jersey Democrat should resign if." Said Sanders, "Whoa, whoa, whoa – I think, in this country, people are entitled to due process," adding, "I'm not into speculating...if that will be Menendez's decision. He has not been convicted. Let the process take its course." Sanders went on to say, "In America, that's what it's about. You have a trial, and people – the jury makes its decision. They have not made their decision. So, I think it's a little bit premature to be talking about that."

SCALISE DISCUSSES SHOOTING, RECOVERY. Norah O'Donnell reported on <u>CBS' 60 Minutes</u> (10/1, 9.03M) that last week, lawmakers from both parties welcomed Rep. Steve Scalise "back to Congress with a rousing ovation, and with good reason. Three and a half months ago, he was nearly killed, when a gunman armed with a rifle and a .9 mm handgun, ambushed the Republican congressional baseball team." The report provided details of the attack and Scalise's recovery.

Later in the story, O'Donnell said that when Scalise was show, "there was a lot of talk from members of Congress of all stripes, calling for the kind of unity we witnessed Thursday. So after his emotional welcome back, we followed congressman Scalise to his office, and asked him if the appearance of unity could result in something more lasting." Scalise: "Ultimately on some of these big issues, we're not that far apart. But when everybody goes into their separate corners, it's just real easy to demonize the other side, instead of saying, 'Okay, how can we come together and figure out how to get done what's important for the country?' Hopefully this might have pulled us a little bit closer together." The CBS Weekend News (10/1, story 10, 1:30, Quijano) reported on the 60 Minutes story earlier Sunday evening.

MCDANIEL APPEARS TO BE READYING FOR A 2018 PRIMARY CHALLENGE TO WICKER. In an "analysis," the AP (10/1, Pettus) reports that state Sen. Chris McDaniel's (R-MS) unsuccessful 2014 primary challenge to Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) "was hard-fought and ugly, and it might be a preview of things to come in 2018." The AP says McDaniel "is positioning himself to challenge" Sen. Roger Wicker (R) in next year's primary." In the wake of Roy Moore's (R) Senate primary win last week, McDaniel told the AP "that he saw the Alabama results as 'a continuation of what we did in 2013 and '14.' McDaniel stopped short of saying he would challenge Wicker, but said Moore's win "makes ours a much more compelling race.' McDaniel also has the support of [ex-White House strategist] Steve Bannon, who backed Moore in Alabama."

ANALYSIS FINDS MCSALLY IS ARIZONA'S "MOST RELIABLE VOTE" FOR TRUMP AGENDA. The Arizona Republic (10/1, Hansen, 968K) reports that "according to an analysis by FiveThirtyEight of roll-call votes on issues where the White House's preference was clear," since President Trump took office, Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ) has been Arizona's "most reliable vote for Trump's legislative wishes, siding with the administration's position 96 percent of the time." The Republic added that McSally's "support ranks 85th in the House, which puts her in the top 20 percent of lawmakers." McSally is a top Democratic target in the 2018 elections.

DFL FACES CHALLENGE IN RETAINING SEAT OF EXITING WALZ. On its website, Minnesota Public Radio (9/30, Steil) reported that the 2018 race to succeed Rep. Tim Walz (DFL-MN) – who is running for governor next year – "features eight Democrats and only one Republican, so far. But the shifting political landscape in" the MN1 "favors the GOP, and voters are restless. Walz has represented the big, largely rural" MN1 "since 2007." Businessman Jim Hagedorn (R), who "ran unsuccessfully against Walz in the last two elections, losing by less than 1 percent last year," is the only GOP candidate in this year's contest. And "with the popular Walz out of the picture, political observers say it will be a challenge for Democrats in a region that generally favors Republicans."

EX-REP. GRIMM ANNOUNCES GOP PRIMARY CHALLENGE TO DONOVAN. The AP (10/1, Peltz) reports that ex-Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY), who was convicted of felony tax fraud and served seven months in prison, on Sunday announced that he will mount a 2018 primary challenge to Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY), the man who succeeded him in Congress. In announcing his run during an event on Staten Island, Grimm "chastised Donovan, saying, 'The swamp still needs to be drained. Let's start right here with my opponent." The New York Post (10/1, Sullivan, Gartland, 4.31M) reports that Grimm "took a



page from Ringling Bros. – and another from President Trump – Sunday when he announced his re-entry into politics, trotting out eight cheerleaders and vowing to 'drain the swamp' at a rally on Staten Island."

On its website, <u>CNN</u> (10/1, Kenny, 33.59M) reported that Michael Caputo, "a former top Trump campaign adviser who's now aiding the Grimm campaign, claims voters in the district are not pleased with Donovan's decision not to align with...Trump and, he says, would welcome Grimm back to office. 'The 11th Congressional District is Trump country,' Caputo said. 'It's time for Republicans who oppose the President to pay a price for that.'" CNN added that Donovan "voted against the President on the House's failed legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare and he opposes Trump's proposed tax overhaul, which Donovan said would impose burdensome taxes on the middle class residents of his district."

The New York Times (10/1, Goldmacher, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the Donovan-Grimm fight "immediately becomes one of the most intriguing congressional primaries in the nation next year, and gives Democrats renewed hope to pick off the last congressional Republican who still represents New York City in a district that has proved illusive in recent years." The Times adds, "The brash Mr. Grimm is seeking to revive his political career with an unusual blend of patriotism and victimhood. While apologizing for his past crimes, he said he had faced 'the entire Obama Justice Department weaponized against me' and vowed to return to public service."

The New York Daily News (10/1, Durkin, 3.61M) reports that Grimm "was charged with tax fraud for hiding more than \$1 million in sales and wages at Healthalicious, a Manhattan restaurant he co-owned where he employed off the books workers in the country illegally." He "initially insisted he'd be vindicated, but then pleaded guilty and resigned less than two months after winning re-election in 2014." The Daily News adds that Grimm, "a Marine combat veteran and former FBI agent, also gained infamy for threatening to throw a NY1 reporter off a Capitol Hill balcony when he asked about the fundraising probe." The Hill (10/1, Beavers, 1.68M) and Reuters (9/29, Ax) also report on Grimm's bid.

WPOST'S ROGIN DISCUSSES CONGRESSIONAL BIDS OF OBAMA-ERA NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICIALS. In his Washington Post (10/1, 10.38M) column, Josh Rogin says, "In the first national election of the Trump era," over "a half-dozen Obama administration national security officials are running for Congress, which could result in the largest influx of foreign-policy-minded Democrats to Capitol Hill in years. But all of them face the challenge of moving from the world of policy to politics and translating their Washington résumés into arguments that appeal to locally focused voters." Rogin goes on to discuss the various candidates, saying, for example, that Tom Malinowski, "who served as assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor under Obama, told me he is running in New Jersey because he sees the United States' role and identity as a force for good in the world being squandered by President Trump."

AFTER SIGNING ABORTION BILL INTO LAW, RAUNER MAY FACE GOP PRIMARY CHALLENGE.

The AP (10/1, O'Connor) reports, "Conservatives furious about Gov. Bruce Rauner's expansion of taxpayer-funded abortion in Illinois are threatening to put up a challenger against the first-term governor in next spring's Republican primary. The new House Republican floor leader, Rep. Peter Breen of Lombard, called a primary 'inevitable' after Rauner agreed Thursday to enhanced medical coverage for abortion, reversing the position he articulated months earlier." However, "some experts suggest such a revolt won't make much of a dent given Rauner's power of incumbency – and his pocketbook. He has \$70 million in the bank and easy access to millions more."

Under the headline "Rauner's Left Turns On Abortion, Immigration Put His Political Base In Doubt," the Chicago Tribune (9/30, Pearson, 1.98M) reported that Rauner has "signed into law high-profile, Democrat-backed bills on abortion, immigration and voter rights, prompting questions as to who his base of support is as he seeks re-election, whether he'll catch a primary challenge and how he'll deal with Republican lawmakers going forward. Rauner was already besieged by attacks from would-be Democratic challengers, and now socially conservative Republicans are echoing the partisan attacks, accusing the governor of being a liar who betrayed them," citing his "decision Thursday to approve a bill to expand taxpayer-subsidized abortions to poor women and to women covered by state employee health insurance."



NEWS ANALYSES: SUPREME COURT STARTS NEW TERM WITH BLOCKBUSTER DOCKET. NBC Nightly News (10/1, story 9, 2:25, Snow, 16.61M) reported that the Supreme Court begins its new fall term today, "and it promises to be a blockbuster with such divisive issues as opposition to same-sex marriage, cell phone privacy, and sports betting coming before the court." NBC (Williams) added that "the justices will decide whether Jack Phillips can refuse to make custom cakes for same-sex weddings." NBC noted that the court "will decide whether police need a search warrant to track a person's movements by using the phone companies' records from each time a phone connects to a cell tower and plot a person's movements over several days, even weeks." New Jersey "is urging the justices to rule that it can allow sports betting at racetracks and casinos," and the justices will also decide whether "states violate the Constitution if they draw the boundary lines for state, House, and congressional districts in such a blatantly partisan way that the minority party can't get control."

The New York Times (10/1, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the court, "which was shorthanded and slumbering for more than a year after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, is returning to the bench on Monday with a far-reaching docket that renews its central role in American life." According to the Times, "the new term is studded with major cases likely to provoke sharp conflicts." The court "will hear important workers' rights cases, including one on employers' power to prevent workers from banding together to sue them. 'There's only one prediction that's entirely safe about the upcoming term,' Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said last month at Georgetown's law school. 'It will be momentous.'"

In his "Courts & Law" column for the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/1, 10.38M), Robert Barnes writes that the court begins its new term "with a fortified conservative majority and a docket filled with some of the moment's most contentious issues: voting rights, religious liberty, protection from discrimination, and privacy in an increasingly monitored society." According to Barnes, "with Justice Neil M. Gorsuch not only filling Scalia's seat but also matching his conservative ideological role on the court, the court is back to its full nine members and has a docket that will test harmony. 'We've heard the last term described as the calm before the storm,' said Ian Heath Gershengorn, who was acting solicitor general under President Barack Obama. 'I think we may get to see the storm in this next sitting.'"

The Washington Times (10/1, Swoyer, 541K) reports that "it's a major shift from last term, when legal analysts said the court – with just eight justices for most of the year – didn't break much legal ground. 'It looks bigger by comparison to last term,' said Andrew Pincus, a lawyer for the firm Mayer Brown. 'There were relatively few high-profile cases that the court decided, and there seems to be a number already on the docket."

The New York Times (10/1, Wines, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the court on Tuesday will hear arguments "in a case involving the Wisconsin State Assembly that could remake an American political landscape rived by polarization and increasingly fenced off for partisan advantage." According to the Times, "Republicans declared a strategy in 2008 to capture control of state legislatures so that they could redraw congressional districts to their advantage after the 2010 census," and "political scientists said that was one reason the Democratic presence in the House of Representatives had fallen to 75-year lows." After the November election, Democrats "took steps to reclaim legislatures before the 2020 census set off a new round of map drawing." The court "is being asked to decide whether such a partisan divide should continue unabated or be reined in," and "the immediate stakes are enormous," according to the Times, as "a decisive ruling striking down the Wisconsin Assembly map could invalidate redistricting maps in up to 20 other states."

Attorneys Argue Partisan Gerrymandering Threatens Democracy. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (10/1, 10.38M), Cliff Sloan, a partner at the law firm Skadden Arps, and Michael Waldman, president of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, write that "as the Supreme Court prepares to consider whether gerrymandering can ever be so partisan as to be unconstitutional, some defenders of the practice will contend that its long historical pedigree should immunize it from judicial review." However, the authors argue that "partisan gerrymandering is inconsistent with the democratic ideals enshrined in the Constitution, and Americans since the founding generation have vehemently denounced it." They add that "in the extreme form it takes today, with districts drawn to give the



controlling party a stranglehold on power, gerrymandering represents an unprecedented threat to our democracy."

WSJournal Urges Court To Bolster Federal Arbitration Law. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/1, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) urges the Supreme Court to hear challenges to an Obama-era National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) opinion which prohibits arbitration class-action waivers in employment contracts. According to the Journal, the court has repeatedly ruled that the Federal Arbitration Act preempts state laws and court rulings against forced arbitration, and urges the court to reinforce previous rulings on the issue.

DEMONSTRATORS MARCH FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, BLACK WOMEN IN DC. The New York Times (9/30, Baumgaertner, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that on Sunday, "thousands of antiracism marchers proved that the capital's summer of protests had not yet come to a close." According to the Times, two separate rallies, the March for Racial Justice and the March for Black Women, "converged in Lincoln Park" in "the heart of the gentrified eastern part of the Capitol Hill neighborhood," and demonstrators "marched in front of the Justice Department before descending on the National Mall to denounce institutionalized racism." The March for Racial Justice, the Times notes, "was organized after the acquittal of a Minnesota police officer in the death of Philando Castile. Mr. Castile's killing, during a traffic stop, was live-streamed on Facebook by his girlfriend." Among the demonstrators' demands, the Times adds, "were the removal of Confederate monuments, deeper legal investigations into hate crimes, and greater focus on indigenous cultures, colonialism and slavery in textbooks."

DAILY CALLER: CHICAGO MURDER RATE REFLECTS "FERGUSON EFFECT." The Daily Caller (10/1, Racke, 521K) reports that, according to FBI figures, "Chicago's annual murder total jumped 86 percent in the space of two years," from 411 in 2013 to 765 in 2016, "evoking memories of the early 1990s crack wars when annual homicide totals regularly approached 1,000." According to the Caller, "Chicago's wave of killing wasn't an aberration," as "six other major U.S. cities experienced a surge in murders in at least one year between 2014 and 2016." The Caller notes that Chicago and Baltimore "were the site of significant civil unrest that erupted following the killing of black men by police officers," and adds that "some criminal justice experts say there is a causal link between the unrest and the two-year rise in homicides nationwide." Manhattan Institute fellow Heather Mac Donald "has dubbed the phenomenon the 'Ferguson Effect,' in reference to a rise in violent crime that followed shooting of Michael Brown by Ferguson, Mo., police officer Darren Wilson in 2014."

SCARAMUCCI SAYS TIME IN WHITE HOUSE WAS "BEST 11 DAYS" OF HIS LIFE. The New York Post (10/1, Moore, 4.31M) reports that former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci said Sunday that his tenure in the White House "was the best 11 days in my life experience as it related to employment in public service." In a Sunday morning radio interview on 970 AM's "Cats Roundtable," Scaramucci also said he does not "shirk" responsibility for his controversial interview with The New Yorker's Ryan Lizza that led to his termination. He added, "The only thing I would say is that [Lizza] wrote the story in a very bombastic way and tried to make me look unhinged."

ECONOMIST: COMPANY'S WIRELESS INNOVATION IMPEDED BY FCC RULES. In a <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/1, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, economist Thomas W. Hazlett writes that the Federal Communications Commission should allow Ligado – a satellite communications company whose efforts at furthering wireless innovation have been impeded by regulations for years – to use satellite licenses for cellular services. The Journal also argues that the FCC should allow competitors, including Ligado, to bid for new radio spectrum rights.

LAW PROFESSOR: ANTI-KKK LAWS MAY PROVIDE ANSWER TO CAMPUS CENSORSHIP. In a Wall Street Journal (10/1, Weiser, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, Baruch College law professor Jay Weiser writes that so-called anti-Ku Klux Klan laws and more recent civil rights statutes offer individuals who have been censored or shouted down, such as conservative speakers, at both public and private universities certain legal recourse. Weiser highlights Section 1985(3) of the Civil Rights Act, which may restrict individuals from using physical violence or group intimidation to suppress speakers.



WSJOURNAL: TRUMP'S LATEST COURT PICKS HIGHLIGHT HIS GREATEST POLITICAL SUCCESS. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (10/1, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) applauds President Trump for his four latest judicial nominations for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals – Don Willett, James Ho, Stuart Duncan, and Kurt Engelhardt. The Journal praises each judge's legal achievements

James Ho, Stuart Duncan, and Kurt Engelhardt. The Journal praises each judge's legal achievements and asserts that their nominations highlight Trump's greatest political success as he rapidly remakes the federal appellate and district courts with qualified, conservative picks.

WPOST: GUGGENHEIM'S DECISION TO REMOVE ART REPRESENTS CHALLENGE TO FREE EXPRESSION. In an editorial, the Washington Post (10/1, 10.38M) writes that the recent decision of the Guggenheim Museum to remove three pieces from an upcoming art exhibition that had sparked protests from animal rights activists signifies a surrender to threats and a disregard for free expression. The Post concludes that the Guggenheim's decision "sends a chilling message about artistic freedom, which could set a troubling precedent the next time some other institution plans to display something someone else doesn't like or approve of."

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 18 Sep 2017 13:28:58 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR MONDAY, SEPT.

18, 2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR MONDAY, SEPT. 18, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

ACA NAVIGATOR GROUPS IN LOUISIANA LOSE 80 PERCENT OF FUNDING. The Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate (9/15, Griggs, 72K) reported that the two ACA navigator groups in Louisiana "had 80 percent of the \$1.7 million in funding they receive slashed by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department." One of them saw its funding cut by 72 percent, and the other by 98 percent. As a result, the groups are laying off workers just before the ACA open enrollment period begins on November 1.

ARKANSAS MEDICAID DATA BREACH EXPOSES 26,000 PATIENTS' INFORMATION. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (9/16, Davis, 319K) reported that a fired Arkansas Department of Human Services employee sent information of 26,000 Medicaid recipients to her personal email account. The information included names, birth dates, medical procedure codes, diagnoses, and Medicaid identification numbers — which may be the same as Social Security numbers. State officials said that information about the breach was sent to the US Department of Health and Human Services, which enforces federal health privacy laws, and local prosecutors.

CDC ISSUES WARNING AFTER BRUCELLOSIS BACTERIA FOUND AT TEXAS' K-BAR DAIRY. The AP (9/15) reported the CDC issued a warning that people who consumed raw milk or raw milk products from Texas' K-Bar Dairy may have contracted the infectious disease brucellosis "and need to take antibiotics." According to the AP, "The Texas Department of State Health Services says K-Bar Dairy has complied with state law and is cooperating after two cows tested positive for the bacteria." Consumers who ingested raw milk products from the dairy between June and August 7 are at risk, with at least one Texas woman becoming sick so far.

TEXAS FAMILIES RELIANT ON CHIP WORRY ABOUT PROSPECTS OF REAUTHORIZATION, INCREASED ENROLLMENT. The Dallas Morning News (9/15, Kelly, 984K) reported victims of Hurricane Harvey are concerned that two changes facing their children's health insurance – the uncertain reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program which expires on September 30, and the increase in enrollment in the program following CMS' application waiver in the wake of the disaster – could endanger the quality and quantity of care available. According to the Morning News, "Utah Republican and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch, who first co-sponsored the bipartisan legislation in 1997, proposed a five-year CHIP reauthorization on Wednesday." However, despite support for the legislation, Hatch and follow republican Sen. John Cornyn believe that reauthorization will not occur before the September 30 deadline due to time constraints, with Cornyn's warning, "the time deadline for reauthorization may slip from Sept. 31 and be part of the year-end package of negotiations that we expect on or around Dec. 8."

ARKANSAS MEDICAID EXPANSION ROLLS CONTINUE TO RISE. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette (9/16, Davis, 319K) reported that the Arkansas Department of Human Services announced that more than 1,600 Arkansans enrolled in the state's Medicaid expansion in August, making the total number of those covered almost 309,000. The 2013 program extended eligibility to those with incomes of up to 138 percent of the poverty level. The article added that Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) requested federal approval



to move 60,000 Arkansans off the plan out of concerns over the "eventual cost of the program" by "limiting eligibility to people with incomes up to the poverty level and to impose a work requirement on many of those remaining," and that state officials expect a ruling on that waiver request by early next month.

TEXAS LAW TARGETS PHYSICIANS' ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT DNR WITHOUT PATIENTS' KNOWLEDGE, CONSENT. The Houston Chronicle (9/17, Ackerman, 1.97M) reports on physicians' and hospitals' "unilateral right" to issue "do not resuscitate" orders without the consent or knowledge of patients, a statute the Chronicle calls "medicine's little-known secret." Some experts say the practice is commonplace despite seeming to be, in the Chronicle's words, "a violation of one of medicine's most cherished principles," patient consent. A law signed by Gov. Greg Abbott (R) last month that will take effect in April 2018 will "dramatically" curb physicians' and hospitals' rights to get approval for DNR orders by requiring them to notify and receive consent from parents or guardians prior to DNR implementation. The Chronicle notes that although the "Texas Medical Association opposed early drafts," it later adopted a "neutral position" on the legislation after lawmakers included changes "to provide doctors better protection from lawsuits."

NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + Senate Republicans Reviving Effort To Repeal ACA By End Of September.
- + Anthem Reverses Decision To Exit Most ACA Marketplaces In Virginia.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + HHS Announces \$344 Million In Federal Grants To Combat Opioid Epidemic.
- + HHS Cuts Nearly All Funding For ACA Navigator Group In Georgia.
- + Lawmakers From Minnesota Want HHS To Approve Reinsurance Program.
- + Editorial: HHS Delaying Approval Of Minnesota's Bipartisan Solution To Insurance Costs.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Florida Nursing Home Owners Cited For Violations Prior To Residents' Deaths.
- + South Florida Nursing Home Claims It Called Governor's Emergency Number 36 Hours Before Patients Died.
- + FDA Commissioner Says Agency Is Working On New Policy To Encourage Registration Of Compounding Pharmacies.
- + Gottlieb Says Oncology Center Symbolizes Agency's Focus On Streamlining Treatment Regulations.
- + Analysis: Biosimilar Drugs Take Time To Reach The Market Even After FDA Approval.
- + FDA To Hold Hearing On Risk Assessment Process.
- + Opinion Offers Recommendations On How FDA Should Regulate Al For Medical Use.
- + Op-Ed: Biomedical Device Hacking, Recall Positions FDA To Become More Involved In Regulatory Testing.
- + Opinion: NIH, FDA Need To Help Advance Scientific Research.
- + NIH Director Interviewed About Advances In Medicine.
- + Discussing Stereotype Threat May Help Students From Ethnic Backgrounds Who Are Underrepresented In STEM Fields, Study Suggests.
- + Natural Disasters Present Opportunity For Researchers.
- + NIH Awards \$15 Million In Grants For Development Of 3D Models Of Human Tissue.
- + Opinion: Proposed NIH Cuts Would Result In Lost Economic Activity And Jobs.
- + Analysis: Insurers Restrict Pricey, Less Addictive Painkillers More Than Opioids.
- + Leprosy, Which Infects 200,000 Yearly, Is Not Highly Contagious, HHS Microbiologist Says.
- + Congress Proposes Update To FDA OTC Drug Rules.
- + IHS Announces New Standards For Patient Wait Times.
- + <u>Unaccompanied Minors From Central America Continue Fleeing To Long Island, New York.</u>



HEALTH REFORM:

- + Ryan Almost Endorses Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Dems Renewing Calls For Opposition To ACA Repeal Efforts.
- + Three Different Efforts To Overhaul US Healthcare System Currently Underway.
- + GOP Groups Convinced Dems' Support Of Single-Payer Will Hurt Them In 2018 Midterms.
- + Hospital Group Expresses Opposition To Latest ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Members Of Senate HELP Committee Hope To Complete Negotiations On ACA Stabilization Bill.
- + Rand Paul Says He Cannot Support New ACA Repeal Effort Because It Does Not Go Far Enough.
- + Alexander, Hatch At Odds Over Healthcare Jurisdiction.
- + More Than 80% Of GOP Voters Still Believe ACA Repeal Should Be A Priority For Congress, Poll Indicates.
- + McConnell Wants CBO To Score New ACA Repeal Bill.
- + CBO Explains Challenges In Predicting Possible Impact Of Repealing ACA Mandate.
- + House Takes Legal Action To Preserve Secrecy Of Health Reform Discussions.
- + Sanders' Proposal Reportedly Includes "Road Map" For Other Strategies.
- + Some Idaho Exchange Officials Worried About Conflict Of Interest Regarding Contract Award.
- + Christian Scientists Impacted By ACA Debate.
- + Repealing ACA Would Harm Elderly Veterans, Report Finds.
- + Health Alliance Plan To Exit Michigan's ACA Exchange.
- + Bipartisan Group Of Governors Wants Congress To Preserve ACA's Individual Mandate, For The Moment.
- + Sanders Criticizes Trump In Response To Attack On Single-Payer Plan.
- + Advocates Worried Trump Administration's Actions Could Result In Higher Number Of Uninsured Michiganders.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + Analysis: US Customs And Border Protection Hunts For Fentanyl At JFK Airport.
- + New Jersey Governor Christie To Announce \$200 Million Plan To Fight Opioid Epidemic.
- + Horry County, South Carolina Launches New Anti-Opioid Ad Campaign.
- + Analysis: Iowa Prisons Prepare For Possible Increase In HIV, Hepatitis C Cases Due To Opioids.
- + In New Hampshire, Overdose Deaths Continue To Rise.
- + Group Of Mothers Has Fought For Stricter Policies On Prescription Opioids For Years.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Owner Of Nursing Home Where Residents Died Linked To Largest Medicare Fraud Case In US History.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Vermont Experimenting With Rewarding Doctors For Healthy Patients.
- + VA Internal Data Show Nearly Half Of Its Medical Appointments Usually Unfilled.
- + Trump Administration In Talks To Withdraw Ban On Arbitration Agreements.
- + Iowa Agency Collecting Data Linked To Defunding Planned Parenthood.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

+ Food Challenge Allergy Tests Are Safe When Conducted In Physician's Office, Study Suggests.

NUTRITION & OBESITY:

- + Obesity May Contribute To Cancer, Review Study Suggests.
- + Patch Burns Fat Off Specific Body Areas In Mice.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Senate, House Work On Crafting CHIP Reauthorization Bills As Expiration Deadline Approaches.
- + Opinion: Both Parties Need To Work Together To Reauthorize CHIP.
- + Massachusetts Nursing Homes Fighting To Mitigate Reimbursement Gaps Amid Threat Of Closure.
- + Pennsylvania Governor Delays More Than \$1 Billion In Medicaid Payments Amid Budget Impasse.
- + Opinion: Proposed Medicaid Cuts Shift Burden To States.



+ Contractor's Billing Error Costs Wisconsin Pharmacies \$2.7 Million.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + Analysis: US Has Accepted Some Responsibility For Use Of Agent Orange Use In Vietnam War, But Not In All Cases Of Illness.
- + Opinion: Proposed Changes To FTC Rules Governing Contact Lens Sales Would Be An "Overreach."
- + Maryland State Law That Would Prohibit "Unconscionable" Drug Price Increases Is Under Scrutiny.
- + Sen. Brown Criticizes Allergan's Drug Patents Deal With Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- + UCLA Pharmacy Now Facing Sanctions After Closing Last Year.
- + FDA Approves Lymphoma Drug.
- + Neovacs CEO Says Company's Experimental Lupus Drug Could Grab Market Share.
- + Many Parents Of Pediatric Cancer Patients Are Inadequately Prepared To Take Care Of Their Children From Home.
- + Staff Of Connecticut Mental Hospital Suspended, Arrested Amid Abuse Allegations.
- + Virtual Reality May Alleviate Pain Through Distraction, Brain Changes, Studies Suggest.
- + Local Agencies Concerned By Number Of Infant Deaths In Escambia County, Florida.
- + Sewage, Contaminated Water Discharging In Florida After Irma.
- + Maine Implements Middle School Booster Shot Requirement To Fight Pertussis.
- + Kentucky Health Officials Confirm Two Cases Of Influenza.
- + Bill Proposing Later School Start Times In California Will Be Revisited Next Year, Author Says.
- + Criminal Trial For Former NECC Supervisory Pharmacist To Begin Tuesday.
- + Results For Familial Amyloid Polyneuropathy Therapy Expected By End Of Month.
- + St. Patrick Hospital In Montana Detects Legionella Bacteria In Its Water Supply.
- + Study Finds Ohioans With Developmental Disabilities Receive Worse Health Care.
- + Washington State Department Of Health Finds "No Sole Factor" Behind Fatal Birth Defect Spike.
- + Physician Says Pediatricians Should Initiate Conversations About Racism.
- + Investigations Into DC Hospital's Safety Violations Indicate Lack Of Penalties.
- + Opinion: Recent Research Advancing Understanding Of Genetic Mutations' Impact On Circadian Rhythms.
- + AAP Issues First Report On Addressing Body Tattooing, Piercing Among Adolescent Patients.
- + Florida Governor Announces New Rules Requiring Nursing Homes To Have Generators.
- + Nursing Home Where Residents Died Lacked Emergency Plan Specifying Air Conditioning Policy.
- + Column: Pittsburgh Operators Consider Emergency Preparedness After Florida Nursing Home Deaths.
- + Nursing Home Residents' Deaths A "Tragedy."
- + WPost: Florida Nursing Home Residents Forced To Endure "Inexplicable Horror" Before Death.
- + Resident Of Florida Nursing Home Where Eight Died Sues For "Reckless" Negligence.
- + Asthma Symptoms Worsen With Age, Research Suggests.
- + NYTimes, ProPublica Examine Rising Drug Prices.
- + Researchers Examining Child Brain Cancer Say Study Suggests "Kinder" Treatments May Be In Store.
- + Across The US, There Are About 35,000 Home Births Each Year.
- + Effectiveness Of Weight-Loss Diet May Well Depend On Which Bacteria Are Present In The Gut, Researchers Say.
- + <u>Suicide Among Military Veterans Especially High In The Western US And Rural Areas, Researcher Say.</u>
- + High Insulin Prices Forcing Some Diabetes Patients To Take Less Insulin Or Even Skip Medication.
- + Healthcare Providers Often Disregard The Pain Of Patients With Sickle Cell Disease.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + As He Prepares To Address UN, Trump Dubs North Korea's Kim Jong-Un "Rocket Man."
- + Authorities Allow Residents To Return To Florida Keys.
- + Fox's Henry: Media Not Giving Trump Credit For Hurricane Response.
- + Florida Nursing Homes To Hold Summit On Scott's New Generator Rule.
- + Schumer Asks FTC To Launch "Gouge Watch" On Oil Prices After Harvey, Irma.
- + Providing Temporary, Long-Term Housing A Major Test For FEMA In Harvey Recovery.
- + Officials Move To Guard Against Explosion In Mosquito Population After Harvey.
- + Hurricane Maria Moving Toward Caribbean.



- + WPost Analysis Considers "Sobering" Lessons From Harvey, Irma.
- + Meteorologist Questions Media Narrative Linking Harvey, Irma To Climate Change.
- + McMaster: Trump Better Off Without Bannon And Those Who Pushed "Narrow Agendas."
- + AP Analysis: Bossert A "Bastion Of Competence" In A Turbulent White House.
- + NYTimes Analysis: Trump Legal Team Split Over How Much To Cooperate With Mueller Probe.
- + WPost: GOP Establishment Girds For Battle Against Bannon In Primaries.
- + Pro-Moore PAC Shows Him Leading Strange 50%-37% In GOP Runoff.
- + Trump Retweets Mock Video Of Him Striking Clinton With A Golf Drive.
- + Feinstein Defends Her Questioning Of Barrett.
- + Tur: "I Felt The Bile In The Back Of My Throat" On Night Of Trump's Election Win.
- + Zinke Recommends Reductions, Changes To Half the Monuments He Reviewed.
- + Advisory Panel Recommends FAA Eliminate More Than 50 Air Safety Rules.
- + Key McCaskill Donor Operates Nursing Homes With History Of Problems.
- + Hatch: Decision On 2018 Race Largely Depends On His Health.
- + Politico Analysis: Facing Long Odds, Democrats Still Hope To Retake Senate In 2018.
- + In Key California House Races Targeted By Democrats, Party Faces Potential Hurdles.
- + "Sources": Ex-Rep Grimm To Challenge Fellow Republican Donovan.
- + In First TV Ads Of General Election, Guadagno Pledges To Cut Taxes, Hits Murphy.
- + WSJournal Analysis: Trump Looms Over Malliotakis' Bid To Oust De Blasio.
- + DeVos' \$40 Million Yacht Docked In Milwaukee.
- + Spicer Makes Surprise Appearance At Emmys.
- + NYTimes Analysis: Black, Hispanic College Freshmen More Underrepresented In 2015 Than 1980.
- + St. Louis Protests Continue.
- + DOJ Halts Review Of Milwaukee Police Department.
- + Chicago Tribune Counts 500th Homicide In City This Year.
- + Dallas School District Considers Renaming Three Schools Named After Founding Fathers.
- + Truck Hits Confederate Statue At University of Mississippi.
- + John Jay Professor On Administrative Leave After Tweeting About "Future Dead Cops."
- + Police Say Recent Louisiana Shootings Were Racially Motivated.
- + Government Controls Pose Challenges For Facebook, Other Online Companies.
- + Samuelson: Report Shows Middle Class Rising Again, But Offers A Few Sobering Takeaways.
- + Isaac, Kovacevich: Fed Should Forget Inflation Target And Raise Interest Rates.
- + Professors: Deal With Antifa By Designating It A Gang.
- + WSJournal: Congress Should Curb Asset-Forfeiture Program.
- + WSJournal: Second Circuit Should Clear Up Insider Trading Uncertainty.
- + WSJournal: In Nod To UAW, California Democrats Targeting Tesla.

Leading the News:

SENATE REPUBLICANS REVIVING EFFORT TO REPEAL ACA BY END OF SEPTEMBER. The Washington Post (9/17, Viebeck, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that Senate Republican leaders are reviving their effort to repeal the ACA by the end of the month and have asked the CBO to "fast-track" consideration of the "so-called Graham-Cassidy bill." Democrats are reportedly taking the latest effort "seriously." The article adds that Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), who cast the deciding vote on the most recent repeal bill, has previously said he supports the bill "in theory," but "cautioned Republicans on Sunday against the instinct to 'ram through our proposal' with a party-line vote."

CNN (9/17, Fox, Mattingly, Lee, 33.59M) reports on its website that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will make another attempt at a repeal bill "if Graham and Cassidy can secure the votes." The article adds that an Administration official confirmed that the White House is "also making a push for the bill," "although there are no plans to call in President Donald Trump to make a full-fledged lobbying effort just yet."

The <u>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u> (9/17, Dupree, 1.16M) reports that President Trump said last week, "As I have continued to say, inaction is not an option," and adds that McConnell could "force a vote at anytime



to re-start debate on health care, and bring up the Graham-Cassidy bill."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/17, Howell, 541K) reports that the AARP said it opposes the bill. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) has said that she has "reservations" and "[s]he wants to keep the focus on bipartisan efforts to shore up the insurance markets as they exist."

Cassidy Says There Is Growing Support For Latest ACA Repeal Bill. The Wall Street Journal (9/15, Armour, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reported that GOP senators who are pushing a last-ditch effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act say they have nearly enough votes to pass the measure. On Friday, Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) said 48 or 49 Republicans senators support the legislation. The article added that not that many GOP senators have publicly advocated the bill.

Politico (9/15, Cancryn, 3.6M) reported that on Friday, Cassidy "sought to rally support for the last-ditch Obamacare repeal plan he co-authored, saying he believes he's on the verge of winning the final votes needed to jam it through the Senate." The article said although Cassidy claimed about 49 GOP senators support the measure, he "doesn't have a hard whip count with just days left to use a fast-track process allowing the bill to pass with a simply majority." In addition, Cassidy's "search for the elusive 50 'aye' votes got harder Thursday, when Sen. Rand Paul announced his opposition."

The Hill (9/15, Sullivan, 1.68M) reported that Cassidy is facing "long odds" in this endeavor. He stated, "I am pretty confident we'll get there on the Republican side." But the issue "for Senate Republicans when it comes to ObamaCare repeal has always been getting the final few votes to put them over the top."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/16, Cohn, 5.74M) reported that "even if the bill's political fortunes are difficult to pin down, the impact it would have as a law is crystal clear." The article added that since it aims to "dramatically" reduce "what the federal government spends on health care and undermin[e] rules designed to guarantee insurance for people with pre-existing conditions, this new proposal would leave millions of Americans struggling to pay their medical bills and to get coverage."

The Washington Times (9/15, Howell, 541K) reported that GOP leaders appeared "to greet the bill with a shrug when it dropped this week, yet Mr. Cassidy said the idea 'took off' during a Thursday luncheon that focused on health care."

Vox (9/15, Kliff, 1.54M) and the Daily Intelligencer (NY) (9/15, Hartmann, 519K) also covered the story.

ANTHEM REVERSES DECISION TO EXIT MOST ACA MARKETPLACES IN VIRGINIA. The AP (9/15, Howell) reported that on Friday, Anthem reversed its decision to exit Affordable Care Act marketplaces in Virginia. Other insurance companies' departure would have left Virginia residents in 63 counties without access to ACA plans next year. Anthem said it examined the situation and "decided to walk back its plans, announced in early August, to leave the state's marketplace in 2018." The insurer stated, "This decision will positively impact up to 70,000 Virginians – many of whom would not have had access to important health care coverage."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/15, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reported that state insurance regulators throughout the US have been working to ensure that people in bare counties have access to ACA plans in 2018. To date, they have been successful, and this move by Anthem is the latest change of heart by an insurer.

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/15, Edney, Tracer, 4.52M) reported that as a result of this change, Anthem will be offering ACA plans in 68 Virginia cities and counties. The article said insurers "face deadlines at the end of this month to decide whether they will participate in the Obamacare markets and what plans they will offer."

The Hill (9/15, Hellmann, 1.68M) reported that several insurers "have said they won't sell ObamaCare plans next year, citing uncertainty in the markets caused by the Trump administration." The piece added that the companies are especially concerned "about whether the Trump administration will cancel key



ObamaCare insurer subsidy payments called cost-sharing reductions."

Also covering the story were the <u>Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch</u> (9/15, Martz, 394K), <u>Reuters</u> (9/15, Erman, Humer), the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/15, Leonard, 465K), and <u>Fierce Healthcare</u> (9/15, Small, 146K).

The Secretary in the News:

HHS ANNOUNCES \$344 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC. There was extensive coverage of the Health and Human Services Department's announcements of grants totaling more than \$344 million to fight the opioid epidemic. Modern Healthcare (9/15, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reported that the Health Resources and Services Administration would provide \$200 million to more than 1,100 community health centers and, on Friday, HHS Secretary Tom Price announced another \$144 million in grants through the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which will focus on training first responders for emergency treatment of overdoses, to provide treatment and support for pregnant and postpartum women, and to expand residential substance abuse treatment for single mothers.

HHS Secretary Announced \$144 Million In Grants For Opioid Epidemic During Visit To Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/15, Whelan, 1.71M) reported that Price and White House adviser Kellyanne Conway announced the \$144 million in federal grants during a Friday visit to the Mirmont Treatment Center in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, on their "listening tour." When asked about a formal declaration of the epidemic as a national emergency as President Trump promised last month, Price said the Administration was still "determining the formality of what that is."

The <u>Delaware County (PA) Daily Times</u> (9/15, Tustin, 160K) reported that Price said, "Fighting the opioid crisis is an absolute top priority for the Trump administration, and it's a top priority for the Department of Health and Human Services. ... This crisis has hit Pennsylvania hard, there's no doubt about it." Drugrelated overdose deaths were up 37 percent in 2016 over 2015, totaling approximately 4,600 people.

Also covering the story are: The Hill (9/15, Roubein, 1.68M), Health IT Analytics (9/15, Bresnick), the AP (9/15), another article by the AP (9/16), Buffalo (NY) Business First (9/15, Drury, Subscription Publication, 839K), the Centralia (WA) Chronicle (9/16), the Clark County (WA) Columbian (9/16, Sword, 93K), the Cleveland Plain Dealer (9/15, Madden, 927K), Columbia (SC) State (9/15, Smoot, 344K), the Dayton (OH) Daily News (9/15, Schroeder, 141K), the Dayton (OH) Business Journal (9/15, Subscription Publication, 839K), the Lawton (OK) Constitution (9/17, Potter, 60K), LNP Media (PA) (9/15, Baldrige, 43K), the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (9/16, Zeitlinger, 1.62M), the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal (9/16, Moore, 96K), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/15, 337K), the Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat (9/15, Espinoza, 166K), Valley News (VT) (9/17, Burch, 8K), and KYW-TV Philadelphia (9/15, Melwert, 29K).

HHS CUTS NEARLY ALL FUNDING FOR ACA NAVIGATOR GROUP IN GEORGIA. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (9/15, Hart, 1.16M) reported that funding for an ACA navigator group in Georgia was cut from \$150,000 to \$10,000, a move which the group said was unexpected because it had been told its funding would remain largely unchanged. The article said from a policy standpoint, "the move is not a surprise following the election of President Donald Trump and his selection of Tom Price as health secretary. Both are deeply skeptical of the 2010 health care law, and the law itself invests tremendous amounts of leverage in individual decisions by the secretary."

South Carolina ACA Navigator Group Sees More Than 50% Cut In Funding. The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (9/16, Wildeman, 269K) reported that The Palmetto Project, an ACA navigator program in South Carolina, was notified last week that its funding for this fiscal year would be cut from \$1.09 million to \$501,048. The group said it had expected a cut of 20 percent at most. In light of the actual figure, officials say they are unsure about how to proceed during this year's ACA open enrollment period.

Michigan ACA Navigator Groups' Funding Cut Significantly. The Detroit Free Press (9/15, Spangler,



1.07M) reported that the Trump Administration is reducing "funding for two organizations in Michigan that help residents navigate the complexities of signing up for and receiving benefits under the Affordable Care Act less than two months before enrollment begins." A lawmaker said on Friday that "Enroll Michigan, which provides funding to more than two dozen groups providing sign-up assistance, has been told its grant will be cut by 90%, from \$1.2 million to less than \$130,000 this year." Meanwhile, "ACCESS, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn, will see funding cut by more than a third, from \$555,000 to \$352,000."

ACA Navigator Groups Facing Cuts Of As Much As 98%. Sarah Kliff wrote in a Vox (9/15, 1.54M) piece that the Trump Administration informed ACA navigator groups "of deep impending budget cuts next year, with some nonprofits having budgets slashed by as much as 98 percent." Kliff said there was wide variation in the amount of cuts for each state. For instance, outreach funding for Louisiana and Indiana was cut by 80 percent, while Maine's budget remained unchanged, and Kansas' will be reduced by just nine percent.

LAWMAKERS FROM MINNESOTA WANT HHS TO APPROVE REINSURANCE PROGRAM. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/17, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports that congressional lawmakers from Minnesota are "calling for quick federal approval of a state program to moderate premium increases next year in the individual health insurance market." State lawmakers passed a measure for "a 'reinsurance' program to help stabilize the market in Minnesota that primarily serves people under age 65 who are self-employed or don't get health insurance through their employer." But, the program requires federal approval, "and the chief executive of the state's MNsure exchange told a U.S. Senate hearing" last "week that action is needed 'in the next few days." The 10 lawmakers wrote to HHS Secretary Tom Price saying "we urge you to complete your consideration of Minnesota's waiver application as soon as possible."

EDITORIAL: HHS DELAYING APPROVAL OF MINNESOTA'S BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO INSURANCE COSTS. The Albert Lea (MN) Tribune (9/17, 19K) reports Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton and state lawmakers "had crafted a reasonable bipartisan solution to skyrocketing health insurance premiums earlier this year," but the Department of Health and Human Services has delayed improving a waiver request needed to proceed. HHS Secretary Tom Price and Republicans "have been long calling for giving more flexibility to the states under the Affordable Care Act as part of major reforms," so it's "puzzling" to see HHS delay implementation of "a bipartisan state solution that could be a model for the rest of the country." The Tribune expresses concern that Price and the GOP "want to show Obamacare doesn't work and so are hesitant to approve a plan that shows it can work."

HHS in the News:

FLORIDA NURSING HOME OWNERS CITED FOR VIOLATIONS PRIOR TO RESIDENTS' DEATHS. USA Today (9/15, Payne, Sarkissian, Network-Florida, 8.62M) reported that three weeks before eight elderly residents died at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, Florida, nursing home, the owners were reprieved of a ban implemented by state regulators on their other location, Floridian Gardens Assisted Living Facility, due to 30 violations including sexual assault of patients, lacking adequate staff, and ignoring residents. The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration deemed the Floridian Gardens facility safe to admit new patients on August 24, while on Wednesday "authorities opened a criminal investigation into the deaths" of eight Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills residents left without air conditioning following Hurricane Irma. The piece added that the Floridian Gardens facility "was well known" to inspectors, who "recorded a long history of violations over the past several years."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/15, Kamp, Evans, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reported four of the Hollywood Hills residents died inside the facility, while the others died at a hospital. While many details surrounding their deaths remain unclear, responders and law enforcement say the facility did not begin evacuating residents until some were already dead. Dr. Jack Michel holds a controlling stake in the healthcare group that owns the nursing home.

The Miami Herald (9/15, Chang, 701K) reported CMS Administrator Seema Verma said the agency is



leading "an ongoing federal assessment" of the Hollywood facility.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/17, Geggis, Chokey, 530K) also reports.

SOUTH FLORIDA NURSING HOME CLAIMS IT CALLED GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY NUMBER 36 HOURS BEFORE PATIENTS DIED. The New York Times (9/15, Fink, Harmon, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that the Florida nursing home where eight residents died on Wednesday "said Friday that it had repeatedly called the local power company and had been assured that help was on the way." The nursing home owned by Larkin Community Hospital "also said it spoke repeatedly with government agencies, including the Florida Department of Emergency Management, the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Department of Health."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/15, Correll, 465K) reported that officials at the Rehabilitation Center said they dialed "an emergency cellphone number connected to Florida Gov. Rick Scott's office...36 hours before patients began to die," but the "call went straight to voicemail." The officials said they left a message indicating needed "immediate assistance" from Florida Power and Light. John Tupps, the governor's communications director, said, however, that "every call made to the governor from facility management was referred to the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Department of Health and quickly returned."

The Hill (9/15, Weixel, 1.68M) reported that "Scott said the state had multiple points of contact with the facility" prior to the residents' deaths last Wednesday, adding that Scott "said at no time did the facility communicate any imminent threats to its patients." In a statement, Florida Department of Health spokesperson Mara Gambineri said, "Let's be clear – this facility is located across the street from one of Florida's largest hospitals, which never lost power and had fully operating facilities. It is 100 percent the responsibility of health care professionals to preserve life by acting in the best interest of the health and well-being of their patients."

ABC World News Tonight (9/15, story 7, 1:40, Muir, 7.68M) ran a segment.

Additional coverage by the <u>New York Daily News</u> (9/16, 3.61M) and on the website of <u>NBC News</u> (9/16, 3.46M).

FDA COMMISSIONER SAYS AGENCY IS WORKING ON NEW POLICY TO ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION OF COMPOUNDING PHARMACIES. Reuters (9/15, Raymond) reported FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb "said on Friday the agency is working on a new policy that would encourage more compounding pharmacies to register under a law enacted in the wake of a deadly 2012 meningitis outbreak linked to one such company." The article points out that the outbreak led to 76 deaths.

GOTTLIEB SAYS ONCOLOGY CENTER SYMBOLIZES AGENCY'S FOCUS ON STREAMLINING TREATMENT REGULATIONS. The <u>Cancer Letter</u> (9/15) reported FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told attendees of an event sponsored by Friends of Cancer Research that the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence offers a demonstration of what the agency as a whole is doing to streamline the medication development process. Gottlieb said the agency can consider "a lot of scientific opportunities to modernize our approach to drug regulation and also make it more rigorous," and said the center has considered "seamless trials, master protocols, site-agnostic clinical trials, and other ways to try to develop drugs." The article added that he further discussed what he called "drug prices as a public health issue" in a paywalled transcript.

ANALYSIS: BIOSIMILAR DRUGS TAKE TIME TO REACH THE MARKET EVEN AFTER FDA APPROVAL. Bloomberg News (9/18, Koons, Edney, Chen, 4.52M) reports that on Thursday, the US Food and Drug Administration approved Amgen Inc.'s biosimilar to Roche Holding AG's biotechnology cancer drug, Avastin, which costs between \$73,000 and \$148,000 per year. Yet Amgen has "no planned launch date" and it is likely to take time to address potential legal disputes regarding the patents. The article examines the FDA's efforts to lower drug costs and to educate physicians about biosimilars, and quotes FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb saying, "We're going to be launching a public service campaign



to educate physicians about the process biosimilars go through."

FDA TO HOLD HEARING ON RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS. Modern Healthcare (9/16, Castellucci, Subscription Publication, 238K) reported the FDA this week will hold a public hearing on the risk assessment process for new medical treatments, where the agency "will likely hear testimony on experiences with this approach and ways to better incorporate the patient perspective into the process." The FDA "is under immense pressure" to cut back on review and approval times for new treatments in an effort to reduce drug costs for consumers while maintaining treatments' safety. The article noted FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb is anticipated "to speed up the approval of new drugs, calling the current process too slow and burdensome."

OPINION OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW FDA SHOULD REGULATE AI FOR MEDICAL USE. John Sotos, medical director at Intel and cardiologist, flight surgeon, and computer scientist, wrote in the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/15, 6.45M) that the FDA is in the midst of navigating how to regulate artificial intelligence for healthcare. Sotos emphasized the need to recognize differences between regulating machine learning and conventional technology; proposed a system for regulating AI for medical use; and examined the potential impact of establishing such an approach to regulation.

OP-ED: BIOMEDICAL DEVICE HACKING, RECALL POSITIONS FDA TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN REGULATORY TESTING. Richard Staynings, principal and cybersecurity evangelist at Cisco, wrote in an analysis in Healthcare IT News (9/15, Staynings, 5K) that the Food and Drug Administration's "unprecedented step of recalling a biomedical device because of concerns over its lack of cybersecurity...marks a major change in direction for both the FDA to get involved in ordering a recall, and for medical device manufacturers who are now on their collective back feet and will need to pivot quickly to respond to future vulnerabilities that catch them by surprise." Staynings wrote that this instance was "different" from previous cases because news of the hack "was made public immediately without time for the manufacturer to remedy the vulnerabilities." He posited that "most importantly, the onus is now on the FDA and manufacturers to pro-actively get involved in the ongoing testing of all devices...in order to avoid the kind of PR disaster" that occurred in the wake of the hack.

OPINION: NIH, FDA NEED TO HELP ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. Mikael Dolsten, MD, PhD, the Executive Vice President of Pfizer Inc. who served on the cancer moonshot's Blue Ribbon panel, wrote in an opinion piece in the Huffington Post (9/15, 5.74M) that "the entire R&D ecosystem must commit to...further acceleration" in order "to unlock the full potential of...exciting opportunities" in science. Dolsten argues that the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration need to be part of that change and outlines several ways that they could help build "a regulatory system...for the 21st century." Dolsten mentions that he has worked with NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins and that he looks forward to working with FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb.

NIH DIRECTOR INTERVIEWED ABOUT ADVANCES IN MEDICINE. In a radio broadcast from WAMU-Mushington (9/15, 34K), Diane Rehm interviewed NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins about recent advances in medicine that "may lead to cures for some of our most debilitating and deadly diseases."

DISCUSSING STEREOTYPE THREAT MAY HELP STUDENTS FROM ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS WHO ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN STEM FIELDS, STUDY SUGGESTS. On its website, the NPR (9/16, Landhuis, 2.4M) "Shots" blog reported that researchers at San Francisco State University (SFSU) found that talking about "stereotype threat" may help students with ethnic backgrounds that are underrepresented in STEM fields, according to a study published in Education Sciences. The researchers used funding from the National Institutes of Health to launch an initiative at SFSU to discuss stereotype threat, which is "the fear of confirming a negative stereotype about one's social group." Hannah Valantine, the chief officer of scientific workforce diversity at NIH, said that the agency has been looking for ways to increase diversity in STEM fields.

NATURAL DISASTERS PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCHERS. The <u>Washington Post</u> (9/16, Yeager, 10.38M) reported that data collected during natural disasters can often help researchers discover better ways to help people in such emergencies. The article mentions that the National Institutes of



Health's Disaster Research Response program "provides a framework for coordinating research on the medical and public health aspects of disasters and other emergencies."

NIH AWARDS \$15 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 3D MODELS OF HUMAN TISSUE. Medical Design Technology Magazine (9/15, Wallace) reported the National Institutes of Health awarded \$15 million in grants to 13 institutions to develop 3D models of human tissue using tissue chips. Dr. Christopher P. Austin, the director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, said, "The goal is for these tissue chips to provide more accurate platforms to understand diseases, and to be more predictive of the human response to drugs than current research models, thereby improving the success rate of candidate drugs in human clinical trials."

OPINION: PROPOSED NIH CUTS WOULD RESULT IN LOST ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND JOBS. Sandip Shah, the president of Market Access Solutions, and Joe Black, a director at Market Access Solutions, wrote in an opinion piece in the <u>Arcadia (CA) Weekly</u> (9/15) that the Trump Administration has proposed "dramatic cutbacks at the National Institutes of Health." Shah and Black argued that President Trump's proposed cuts would cause "\$15 billion in lost economic activity and 90,000 jobs lost nationwide."

ANALYSIS: INSURERS RESTRICT PRICEY, LESS ADDICTIVE PAINKILLERS MORE THAN OPIOIDS. The New York Times (9/17, A1, Thomas, Ornstein, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on its front page that the New York State Attorney General's office sent letters last week to the state's three largest pharmacy benefit managers requesting information on "how they were addressing the crisis" with opioids amid questions that insurers are "are limiting access to pain medications that carry a lower risk of addiction or dependence, even as they provide comparatively easy access to generic opioid medications." The Times and ProPublica analyzed Medicare prescription drug plans covering 35.7 million people and found access to less-risky or more expensive painkillers was limited, but "almost every plan covered common opioids and very few required any prior approval." Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, who led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Obama Administration, said insurers have "not done what they need to do to address" the epidemic. The Department of Health and Human Services is also "studying whether insurance companies make opioids more accessible than other pain treatments."

LEPROSY, WHICH INFECTS 200,000 YEARLY, IS NOT HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS, HHS MICROBIOLOGIST SAYS. NPR (9/16, Brink, 2.4M) reported in "Goats and Soda" that leprosy, though often considered "a disease of the past," still infects 200,000 new people per year, according to The Lancet: Infectious Diseases. The article added that the disease's mechanism of transmission is unclear, but it is not transmitted "through casual contact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." NPR quoted US Department of Health and Human Services' microbiologist Ramanuj Lahiri as saying, "We do know that it's not highly contagious. You need prolonged contact with an untreated individual." He added, "Once [a person is] diagnosed, treatment is started and they are no longer infectious," and they do not need to be isolated or kicked out of their homes, as is the practice in some nations.

CONGRESS PROPOSES UPDATE TO FDA OTC DRUG RULES. The Washington Examiner (9/18, King, 465K) reports Congress is considering updates to over-the-counter medication use through the establishment of "a user fee program that gives the Food and Drug Administration more money to quickly revamp" the monograph system for approval that establishes rules for producing and marketing drugs. The system "is more than 40 years old," prompting FDA officials to "say it hasn't kept up with technological developments in drug production." Center for Drug Evaluation and Research director Janet Woodcock said the FDA has begun to evaluate the "monographs for 26 categories in 1972 and hasn't finalized the monographs for each of them," with nearly "one-third of the monographs...not yet final, and several hundred individual ingredients" lacking "a final determination of safety and effectiveness." The FDA also has cited staffing issues as a factor contributing to slower rates of review for OTC treatments.

IHS ANNOUNCES NEW STANDARDS FOR PATIENT WAIT TIMES. The AP (9/15, Fonseca) reported the Indian Health Services "recently announced" new "standards for patient wait times." According to the article, "routine or preventative care will be scheduled within 28 days" and urgent care appointments will



take place "within 48 hours." The new standards come "more than a year after" IHS was "criticized by a government watchdog" for poor tracking of wait times. In an email, IHS Chief Medical Officer Capt. Michael Toedt wrote, "Our aim is that patients receiving care in IHS direct-service facilities have access to timely, comprehensive and quality health care services to promote and maintain health, avoid preventable disease, manage disease, reduce unnecessary disability and premature death and achieve health equity."

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA CONTINUE FLEEING TO LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK. Newsday (NY) (9/16, Ramos, 1.64M) reported that according to updated figures from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Nassau and Suffolk counties in Long Island, New York, received 1,700 "unaccompanied minors" from Central America from October to July. These numbers are "trending below last year's levels," but exceed those from 2015. The article discussed the concern that these minors may be affiliated with the MS-13 Salvadorean gang. Victoria Palmer, a spokeswoman with the Administration for Children and Families, which oversees the resettlement office, said that the agency considers "the safety of American communities" in addition to the children's, and added that each migrant undergoes "a comprehensive evaluation that includes, if known, criminal history, prior acts of violence, and gang involvement."

Health Reform:

RYAN ALMOST ENDORSES GRAHAM-CASSIDY ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/15, Hellmann, 1.68M) reported that on Friday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) "stopped short of endorsing the Senate GOP's last-ditch effort to repeal ObamaCare, though he applauded their efforts." He tweeted, "I appreciate Senators Graham and Cassidy continuing to work on a plan to pass the Senate. ... I'll take federalism over ObamaCare any day." The article added that although Cassidy said on "Friday morning he thinks he will win enough votes to pass his bill, it's looking unlikely."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/15, Weaver, 465K) reported that Ryan said the measure has "real promise and potential." He added, "It's basically federalism where you just block grant the whole thing. ... You block grant Obamacare back to the states. Just the whole thing."

The Daily Caller (9/15, Brufke, 521K) also covered the story.

DEMS RENEWING CALLS FOR OPPOSITION TO ACA REPEAL EFFORTS. The Hill (9/17, Beavers, 1.68M) reports that Senate Democrats are renewing "their calls to fight against another Republican healthcare push that aims to repeal and replace ObamaCare after reports surfaced that President Trump and GOP leaders are working to garner support for Cassidy-Graham legislation." The article says Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Chris Murphy (D-CT) "are taking to Twitter to make impassioned calls for voters to speak up and demonstrate their opposition to the bill." On Sunday, Warren tweeted, "The fight to save heath care isn't over. Sound the alarm. We need you to fight today & every day until this @SenateGOP bill is dead."

THREE DIFFERENT EFFORTS TO OVERHAUL US HEALTHCARE SYSTEM CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. Modern Healthcare (9/16, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K) reported that at present, there are three different efforts to overhaul the US healthcare system: ACA repeal, ACA stabilization, and Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) single-payer proposal. The article said there is little time to accomplish either of the first two options, which "spells trouble for insurers, providers and patients heading into 2018." The piece added that the healthcare industry is hoping "the winner is the bipartisan initiative being crafted in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to stabilize the individual market and reduce premiums for next year."

GOP GROUPS CONVINCED DEMS' SUPPORT OF SINGLE-PAYER WILL HURT THEM IN 2018 MIDTERMS. The Hill (9/16, Hellmann, 1.68M) reported that the GOP is "cheering on the Democrats' embrace of single-payer health care," thinking the issue "will be an albatross for candidates in" 2018. Having played "defense on health care for months as they failed to fill a promise to repeal ObamaCare,



Bernie Sanders' increasingly popular 'Medicare for all' gives the GOP new momentum to blast Democrats." Corry Bliss, head of the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House GOP leadership, told The Hill, "We're absolutely ecstatic that the Democratic party is embracing single payer, and I think there's a stark contrast developing at a time when the Republican party is focusing on cutting taxes, the Democratic party is focused on adding trillions of dollars of spending and advocating for socialized medicine."

HOSPITAL GROUP EXPRESSES OPPOSITION TO LATEST ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/15, Sullivan, 1.68M) reported that America's Essential Hospitals has expressed "its opposition to a new ObamaCare repeal and replace bill, warning of cuts and coverage losses." The article said the group "represents hospitals that treat a high share of low-income people," and its president and CEO, Dr. Bruce Siegel, cautioned that the measure "would shift costs to states, patients, providers, and taxpayers." He also predicted it would cause millions of consumers to lose healthcare coverage.

MEMBERS OF SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HOPE TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON ACA STABILIZATION BILL. The Washington Examiner (9/16, Leonard, 465K) reported that members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee were "working over the weekend to try to reach an agreement on a stabilization bill for Obamacare that they hope will temper insurer exits and premium increases expected for customers who will buy coverage on the exchanges." The article said President Trump would have to sign the measure before September 27. The panel's chairman, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and its ranking member, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), "expressed optimism about their ability to arrive at a deal, even as Senate leaders have not guaranteed it would receive a vote."

RAND PAUL SAYS HE CANNOT SUPPORT NEW ACA REPEAL EFFORT BECAUSE IT DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. The Hill (9/15, Roubein, 1.68M) reported that Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) has said he is unable to "support the newest ObamaCare repeal plan a quartet of senators is pushing, highlighting the hurdles the legislation would need to overcome to pass the upper chamber." Calling the measure "Obamacare Lite," Paul tweeted on Friday, "I can't support a bill that keeps 90% of Obamacare in place. "GrahamCassidy is not repeal or replace."

The Hill (9/15, Greenwood, 1.68M) reported that during "a brief exchange on Twitter that began with Paul accusing Cassidy's measure of being 'Obamacare Lite,'" Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) "argued that the bill would repeal the Affordable Care Act's 'entire architecture,' and offered to go over the legislation with the Kentucky senator." But Paul responded, "No thanks."

On its website, <u>CNBC</u> (9/15, Mangan, 3.48M) reported that this dispute "underscores the fact that having control of the Senate does not mean that Republican leaders will win passage of the bill dubbed Graham-Cassidy."

ALEXANDER, HATCH AT ODDS OVER HEALTHCARE JURISDICTION. Politico (9/17, Haberkorn, 3.6M) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) was already facing some difficult challenges in his attempts "to craft a bipartisan bill to shore up Obamacare," but now, he is also "taking hostile fire from one of his most powerful Republican colleagues – the other health care chairman." The article says Senate Finance Chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) said Alexander is infringing on his jurisdiction, adding, "It's pretty hard to get excited about what he's doing." The piece adds that this "long-simmering battle between the two Senate heavyweights over health care jurisdiction, a precious Senate commodity, came to a head with Hatch's comments Wednesday, which followed his scathing Washington Post op-ed the week before."

MORE THAN 80% OF GOP VOTERS STILL BELIEVE ACA REPEAL SHOULD BE A PRIORITY FOR CONGRESS, POLL INDICATES. The Hill (9/15, Hellmann, 1.68M) reported that some 80 percent of GOP voters believe "repealing and replacing ObamaCare should be an 'extremely important priority' for Congress," a new Politico-Harvard poll found. Data show 53 percent of respondents said "repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act should be an 'extremely important priority,' 26 percent said it should be a 'very important priority' and 5 percent said it should be a 'somewhat important priority.'" Meanwhile, an additional 16 percent of respondents said repealing the ACA should not be a priority for Congress.



The Washington Examiner (9/15, King, 465K) also covered the story.

MCCONNELL WANTS CBO TO SCORE NEW ACA REPEAL BILL. The Washington Examiner (9/15, Leonard, 465K) reported that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) wants the Congressional Budget Office "to quickly score" the latest ACA repeal bill, his office said on Friday. The measure "would take revenues from Obamacare and distribute them as block grants to states so they could write their own healthcare plans." The article added that a CBO score would make estimates "about government spending and include information about whether people will lose or gain health insurance coverage."

CBO EXPLAINS CHALLENGES IN PREDICTING POSSIBLE IMPACT OF REPEALING ACA MANDATE. The Washington Examiner (9/15, King, 465K) reported that on Friday, the Congressional Budget Office "acknowledged the challenges it has in projecting how repealing Obamacare would affect insurance coverage." The agency is currently reviewing the latest effort to repeal the ACA, which would eliminate the healthcare law's individual and employer mandates. The article added that previous "CBO estimates of Obamacare repeal bills found that repealing the mandate could lead to as many as 16 million people going without insurance."

HOUSE TAKES LEGAL ACTION TO PRESERVE SECRECY OF HEALTH REFORM DISCUSSIONS. Politico (9/15, Gerstein, 3.6M) reported that the House has moved to take legal action to ensure federal agencies are not releasing congressional records via the Freedom of Information Act. The House's Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group reportedly voted unanimously to make the move, "which came Friday evening in a lawsuit demanding access to discussions about health care reform between the Trump administration and Congress." House General Counsel Thomas Hungar was cited as arguing that FOIA disclosure agreements do not apply to congressional documents based on legal precedents. Hungar also criticized the Trump Administration, writing, "Defendants have already demonstrated their unwillingness to defend that interest by failing to treat those documents as congressional records not subject to disclosure under FOIA and instead producing portions of those documents to plaintiff."

SANDERS' PROPOSAL REPORTEDLY INCLUDES "ROAD MAP" FOR OTHER STRATEGIES. Margot Sanger-Katz wrote in the New York Times (9/15, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) "The Upshot" blog that while Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) "Medicare for All" healthcare bill has been endorsed by 15 Democratic senators that include the party's most liberal members, it is beginning to gather a following among "many more Democrats this week," who have "said they'd like to pursue more limited steps to expand health insurance coverage and the government's role in the system." Sanger-Katz said some portions of the proposal "help establish a road map for what some other strategies might look like." For instance, some provisions "describe the four-year transition between current policy and the Sanders bill's goal of a Medicare-for-all system."

SOME IDAHO EXCHANGE OFFICIALS WORRIED ABOUT CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGARDING CONTRACT AWARD. The AP (9/15, Kruesi) reported that Idaho has contracted with "St. Luke's Health System to help people choose a health plan on the online insurance exchange, even though the health care giant stands to financially benefit when customers choose certain plans." The article said some board members of Your Health Idaho raised objections to the plan, but "they voted unanimously to approve the \$272,000 one-year contract with St. Luke's and the Idaho Primary Care Association after asking Your Health Idaho Executive Director Pat Kelly to find a way to audit the contractors."

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS IMPACTED BY ACA DEBATE. <u>USA Today</u> (9/16, Meyer, Tennessee, 8.62M) reported that although Christian Scientists depend on the power of prayer when they are ill instead of medicine, they are still paying attention to "the ongoing political fight over the Affordable Care Act, which reached a fever pitch this summer as Republican lawmakers tried but failed to repeal and replace the Obama-era law." One of them said, "We do have the obligation to look out for the welfare of others. ... As a Christian Scientist, I want everyone to have access to health care." The article added that unlike the Amish and some Mennonites, the ACA requires that Christian Scientists purchase healthcare coverage, or pay a penalty.



REPEALING ACA WOULD HARM ELDERLY VETERANS, REPORT FINDS. Erin Schumaker writes for the Huffington Post (9/15, 5.74M) spotlighting a Rand report finding that "repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act would likely have negative consequences for veterans." Medicaid expansion enabled by the ACA contributed to a drop in the number of uninsured non-elderly veterans from 9.1 percent to 5.8 percent between 2013 and 2015. The researchers "projected that if the [stalled American Health Care Act] had been in effect in 2015, 9.6 percent of non-elderly veterans would be uninsured by 2020."

The Providence (RI) Journal (9/17, Reilly, 298K) also reports on the Rand report.

HEALTH ALLIANCE PLAN TO EXIT MICHIGAN'S ACA EXCHANGE. The <u>Detroit Free Press</u> (9/15, Reindl, 1.07M) reported that Health Alliance Plan, which is based in Detroit, said on Friday that "it will stop offering individual plans next year on the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplace, citing unstable premiums and uncertainty whether the Trump administration will enforce the mandate that everyone buy health insurance." This move will impact about 9,100 consumers. The article said the insurer had previously requested a 24 percent premium increase for next year.

The AP (9/15, Eggert) reported that this "news came the same day a Michigan congressman announced that the state's major groups enrolling people for coverage will see their funding slashed by President Donald Trump's administration."

BIPARTISAN GROUP OF GOVERNORS WANTS CONGRESS TO PRESERVE ACA'S INDIVIDUAL MANDATE, FOR THE MOMENT. The <u>Stateline</u> (9/15, Ollove, 4K) reported in a blog post that even though the ACA's individual mandate is still its "most unpopular feature," several governors from both parties are insisting that it "remain in place – at least for now." Last month, the governors wrote to congressional lawmakers, urging them "to retain the mandate to help stabilize insurance markets." Yet, "the group, which is led by Republican John Kasich of Ohio and Democrat John Hickenlooper of Colorado, also said states should be given the opportunity to devise 'a workable alternative' to it, subject to federal approval."

SANDERS CRITICIZES TRUMP IN RESPONSE TO ATTACK ON SINGLE-PAYER PLAN. Michelangelo Signorile wrote in the Huffington Post (9/15, 5.74M) that following criticism about his single-payer proposal from President Trump, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) "fired back, slamming the president's attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act and his recent decision to end protections for immigrant youth." Signorile added that during an interview, Sanders stated, "Mr. President, let me tell you what a curse on the American people is, and that is your support for legislation that would throw 23 million people off the health care they now have, and then provide huge tax breaks for the rich and large corporations." Sanders also argued that attempting to ensure coverage for every American was not a curse.

ADVOCATES WORRIED TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS COULD RESULT IN HIGHER NUMBER OF UNINSURED MICHIGANDERS. MLive (MI) (9/15, Mack, 947K) reported that the number of uninsured Michiganders "has hit a historic low, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, but ACA advocates are afraid those numbers will rise again as a result of recent policy changes by the Trump Administration." The article said the Administration's actions include shortening the open enrollment period by 50 percent, and cutting "federal funds for groups that promote the ACA and help individuals sign up."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Numerous outlets offer guidance on health reform.

Paul Krugman writes in his New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) column that GOP efforts "to destroy Obamacare have repeatedly failed, and for very good reason. Their attacks on the Affordable Care Act were always based on lies, and they have never come up with a decent alternative." He argues that consumers "might be tempted to assume that no plan along these lines can possibly pass, let alone one that, if anything, looks worse than what we've seen so far," yet "it's precisely because so many people assume that the threat is behind us, and have turned their attention elsewhere, that health care is once again in danger."

E.J. Dionne writes in his Washington Post (9/17, 10.38M) column that before "supporters of universal



health coverage get all wrapped up debating a single-payer system," they must focus on the Graham-Cassidy proposal, which he describes as a "dire threat" to the ACA. The measure, Dionne argues, "would be disastrous" and in some ways is "even worse than earlier repeal measures, which at least kept some of the structure of Obamacare's subsidies in place."

James Downie writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/15, 10.38M) in its "Post Partisan" blog that the "moral frame" of the healthcare debate has shifted from the impacts to access to healthcare under the GOP's ACA repeal proposals to the cost of insuring all Americans under Sen. Bernie Sanders' recent proposal. "That shift is a great shame" as "moral framings should not be something one can pick and choose when to invoke," Downie argues, adding that history abounds with "moral advances that party establishments slow-walked because they were cowed by poll numbers and vote counts."

Jennifer Rubin writes for the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/15, 10.38M) in its "Right Turn" blog spotlighting three healthcare policy options, arguing that "tweaking Obamacare" is the best among them. Rubin highlights the criticisms of opposing proposals by Sen. Bernie Sanders and Republican Sens. Bill Cassidy, Lindsey Graham and Dean Heller and says bipartisan measures being developed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee draw upon the guidance of governors and insurance officials and got a good CBO score Thursday.

Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/17, 5.11M) piece that GOP senators' latest attempt to repeal the ACA "could lead to spending cuts for state education funding from Kindergarten through college, Fitch Ratings said in a new report." Fitch analyst Eric Kim wrote, "Negative implications for entities that rely on state support, including school districts, cities, counties, and public higher education institutions could be more significant given their generally more constrained budgetary flexibility."

<u>Forbes</u> (9/17, 5.11M) contributor Avik Roy writes that the Graham-Cassidy ACA repeal proposal "would turbocharge single-payer activity in blue states," which are currently prohibited from introducing a "public option" coverage into their individual insurance exchanges. Under the Graham-Cassidy plan, "states could use their new block grant dollars to replace their private insurance exchanges with single-payer Medicaid-like programs." Roy goes on to tout the measures that would repeal ACA rules.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Mountain States Health Alliance president Alan Levine write for TIME (9/16, 5.85M) that the Graham-Cassidy-Heller ACA repeal plan is "a much better solution" than the proposal recently offered by Govs. John Hickenlooper and John Kasich, which "keeps most of Obamacare intact, including Medicaid expansion and the individual mandate." They argue that reforming healthcare must be a Congressional priority this year as "the chief issue driving many voters was the repeal of Obamacare."

Doyle McManus writes for the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/17, 4.49M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" plan is "a pony without a price tag" and its "biggest problem is politics." If any options for expanding health insurance advance, Sanders "will deserve credit for making single payer part of the mainstream debate" and for making a proposal like allowing everyone to buy into Medicare "look downright conservative."

Merrill Matthews of the Institute for Policy Innovation writes in an op-ed for The Hill (9/17, 1.68M) blasting Sen. Bernie Sanders' single-payer proposal, saying its expansion of Medicare "would ruin the program for everyone, especially seniors," due to costs. Matthews predicts that single-payer will result in "waiting lines, rationed care and limited access to the newest (and sometimes the most expensive) prescription drugs and medical devices," adding that Congress would exempt themselves from what they would impose on their constituents.

Josh Hoxie writes for <u>U.S. News & World Report</u> (9/15, 1.73M) that the US is "the only industrialized nation that doesn't guarantee health care as a basic right to all its citizens." Sen. Bernie Sanders' proposal "would replace private health insurance corporations, and the immense profits, power and administrative bloat that goes along with them."



Steve Chapman writes for the <u>Chicago Tribune</u> (9/15, 1.98M) that Sen. Bernie Sanders' single-payer healthcare plan proposes to vastly expand a system forecast to be bankrupt by 2029. Chapman warns that Democrats are "over-promising" on Medicare for all and says that "slogans are easy, but when it comes to health insurance, substance is hard."

Betsy McCaughey writes in a column for the New York Post (9/17, 4.31M) that "Bernie Sanders' Medicare for All Act, introduced last Wednesday, outlaws private health insurance." Under Sanders' plan, "180 million Americans who currently have private coverage would have it ripped away and be automatically enrolled in public insurance" and imposes "an annual hard-and-fast dollar limit on how much health care the country can consume." McCaughey says outlawing insurance choice is "immoral."

The <u>Detroit News</u> (9/16, 725K) editorializes that Democrats can afford to back Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for all" plan because it is "a harmless exercise in political posturing" with "no chance" of become law as long as Republicans hold Congress and the White House. The task of fixing the Affordable Care Act "will require a serious bipartisan effort" that is "made harder if Democrats are off indulging the fantasy of this Congress approving universal health care."

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (9/17, 595K) editorializes that Democrats pushing single-payer healthcare should learn from Republicans' mistakes and be wary of "the dangers of overpromising on something as complicated as health care transformation." The failure of the GOP's summer effort to repeal the ACA "shows that elected leaders of both parties can serve the public interest best if they level with the public, from the start, about the practical difficulties of undertaking sweeping health care overhauls."

Benjamin Hart writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (9/17, 519K) that the Graham-Cassidy bill which seeks to repeal the ACA is a "veritable parade of horribles: It would replace the subsidies that are a key part of Obamacare with block grants, nix the individual mandate, end federal protections for preexisting conditions, and much more."

Matthew Yglesias wrote in a Vox (9/15, 1.54M) piece that many are wondering how the single-payer proposal unveiled by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and more than a dozen other senators will be paid for. Yglesias argued that "the question turns out to be impossible to answer because the bill's architects don't have a clear sense of what it would cost." He said that is mainly because under single-payer, "the significant financial decisions involved in running the health care system are all punted over to the executive branch," and HHS is "supposed to draw up a list of prices that providers can be paid for services rendered."

Ezra Klein wrote in a Vox (9/15, 1.54M) piece that according to Jonathan Chait, who writes for the New York Magazine, "Bernie Sanders' Medicare-for-all bill 'gets America zero percent closer to single payer." Klein said he concurred with Chait for the most part, that "single payer has always been, and remains, a political dilemma that nobody has been able to resolve, and there is no evidence the resolution has grown any easier." Yet, Chait's "conclusion – that Sanders 'has accomplished approximately zero percent of the necessary work' – misses what I think Sanders is trying to do, and what a reasonable definition of success looks like."

Stephanie Grace writes for the <u>Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate</u> (9/15, 72K) that Sen. Bill Cassidy "is pushing a bill in Congress that would repeal the Affordable Care Act and instead send the money through block grants down to the states," expecting governors to favor the plan, but Louisiana Gov. John Bel "has joined a bipartisan coalition of governors looking to fix the law rather than trash it." Addressing concerns that "fewer customers would sign up for insurance once mandates are eliminated," Cassidy, however, has pointed to "Edwards' success in adding more than 430,000 Louisianans to the Medicaid roles during the first year of expansion."

The <u>Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail</u> (9/17, 22K) editorializes Sen. Bernie Sanders "has introduced a Medicare for All bill" that it applauds. "President Barack Obama scored a breakthrough with the Affordable Care Act that brought insurance to 20 million more Americans. Now it's time to complete the reform."



Opioid News:

ANALYSIS: US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION HUNTS FOR FENTANYL AT JFK AIRPORT. USA Today (9/17, Shesgreen, 8.62M) profiles the US Customs and Border Protection officers who search the 1 million packages that come through New York's John F. Kennedy Airport for fentanyl. The article reports that most of the fentanyl comes from China and they use their own expertise, an X-ray machine, a "borrowed handheld laser that can peek inside packages," and a dog trained to detect fentanyl. The piece adds that the officers said it would be helpful if they had "advanced electronic data that would allow the CBP to target suspect mail packages with a computer program, instead of manually."

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR CHRISTIE TO ANNOUNCE \$200 MILLION PLAN TO FIGHT OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (9/17, Stirling, 1.62M) reports New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) will announce this week that his state will spend \$200 million in new initiatives to target the opioid epidemic. The funds will primarily target "underserved populations," including "the uninsured, individuals on Medicaid, babies born with addiction and their mothers," and he hopes that, in the Star-Ledger's words, "the initiative will significantly improve the way New Jersey approaches substance abuse treatment and prevention by putting more emphasis on making sure care is geared toward sustained sobriety." Christie added that he spoke with President Trump on Wednesday concerning the opioid commission that recommended the declaration of a "national emergency," and said, "I think the president is where we need him to be and is going to be strong on this, but it's taking a little time."

HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA LAUNCHES NEW ANTI-OPIOID AD CAMPAIGN. Libby Wiersema writes for the Charleston (SC) Post and Courier (9/17, 269K) that Horry County, South Carolina, home of Myrtle Beach, launched a new ad campaign last week designed to address the county's "state-high" opioid problem. According to the article, the ads involve "stories told by law enforcement officials, first-responders, community leaders, opioid users, and their families" describing from different perspectives "what it's like to be affected by the scourge of opioid abuse." The article, citing CDC research, says that the counties hit hardest by the opioid epidemic "tend to made up of small towns and have high rates of uninsured and unemployed residents, with whites being the largest group of abusers."

ANALYSIS: IOWA PRISONS PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE INCREASE IN HIV, HEPATITIS C CASES DUE TO OPIOIDS. The Des Moines (IA) Register (9/17, Pfannenstiel, 324K) reports that Iowa's Department of Corrections is paying attention to what happened in Indiana, where that state saw an increase in hepatitis C and HIV cases arising from intravenous drug use amid the opioid epidemic. The article discusses recent budget cuts of \$5.5 million in 2017 on top of \$1.6 million in 2018 to the state Department of Corrections. The article cites a May 2017 report from the CDC which showed hepatitis C infections increased at a rate of 294 percent between 2010 and 2015, although state officials say that they have not seen an increase in "injection drug use" yet, despite data showing hospital admissions for heroin that have risen 385 percent from 2005 to 2015.

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, OVERDOSE DEATHS CONTINUE TO RISE. The New Hampshire Union Leader (9/18, 118K) reports that the New Hampshire Office of the Chief Medical Examiner released statistics Friday showing that the number of drug overdose deaths continues to rise, but the "rate of increase is slowing." There were 485 deaths in 2016, compared to 439 in 2015. Of the 485, the article added that "349 were caused by fentanyl or some combination of fentanyl and other drugs, including heroin." The report comes a day after HHS Secretary Tom Price visited New Hampshire to announce \$1.7 million in new grants to "increase access to substance abuse treatment and mental health services," and Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D) and Maggie Hassan (D) joined 18 other Democrats who expressed concern that the White House's opioid commission had missed a deadline to "outline an effective strategy to combat the opioid epidemic."

GROUP OF MOTHERS HAS FOUGHT FOR STRICTER POLICIES ON PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS FOR YEARS. In a 3,000-word article, The Guardian (UK) (9/15, McGreal, 3.39M) reported on a group of mothers, whose sons overdosed on opioids, who have been fighting for years to change federal policies



regarding the approval of prescription painkillers. One mother is quoted as saying, "I would argue that we wouldn't have an opioid addiction epidemic today if the Food and Drug Administration had being doing its job from the beginning."

Healthcare Fraud:

OWNER OF NURSING HOME WHERE RESIDENTS DIED LINKED TO LARGEST MEDICARE FRAUD CASE IN US HISTORY. The Palm Beach (FL) Post (9/16, Beall, 273K) reported Dr. Jack Michel, president and co-owner of Larkin Community Hospital and who holds a large stake in a Florida nursing home where eight residents died in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, is connected "to the biggest Medicare fraud case ever filed against individuals in U.S. history." Neither he nor the hospital were named or charged in the criminal case, but a 2004 civil case cited links between Michel, the hospital, and a former associate Philip Esformes, "the man prosecutors say is the ringleader of a scheme that used elderly patients to bilk Medicare and Medicaid of about \$1 billion."

Healthcare News:

VERMONT EXPERIMENTING WITH REWARDING DOCTORS FOR HEALTHY PATIENTS. On its front page, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/17, A1, Johnson, 10.38M) spotlights a "pioneering" effort by Vermont "to keep people healthy while simplifying the typical jumble of private and public insurers that pays for health care." The experiment "rewards doctors and hospitals financially when patients are healthy, not just when they come in sick," and Vermont is setting "an ambitious goal of taking its alternative payment model statewide and applying it to 70 percent of insured state residents by 2022."

VA INTERNAL DATA SHOW NEARLY HALF OF ITS MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS USUALLY UNFILLED. The Washington Examiner (9/17, Hanel, 465K) reports whistleblowers with access to internal data from the Department of Veterans Affairs have exposed documents showing "the agency is only filling about half of its capacity to make medical appointments, even as veterans continue to wait an average of at least 30 days" for an appointment. In response to criticisms of the department's appointment policies, VA spokesperson Curt Cashour said, "The wait time for all VA clinics from the date the veterans first requests an appointment to the date when the appointment is completed has decreased from 19 days to 17 days since 2014."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IN TALKS TO WITHDRAW BAN ON ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/17, Neese, 456K) reports the Trump Administration is contemplating removing a ban on pre-dispute agreements in nursing homes. The Administration this summer "proposed withdrawing the ban before it had even taken effect because of pending court cases," and if the ban is withdrawn, operators "could require residents to sign pre-dispute arbitration agreements before they are admitted." While critics say the proposal gives favor to nursing homes, groups such as the Ohio Health Care Association, noted as being a "counterpart" of the AHCA, has "expressed support for the Trump administration's move." The AHCA is noted for having been "part of a federal lawsuit that blocked the Obama administration's ban on arbitration agreements last year." Peter Van Runkle, Ohio Health Care Association executive director, said it is unfair to "take away someone's right to enter into an agreement."

IOWA AGENCY COLLECTING DATA LINKED TO DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD. The AP (9/17, Rodriguez) reports the lowa Department of Human Services has been collecting data on its staterun family planning program since its inception in July in order to "better understand whether the lowa Legislature's move to cut funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers is resulting in less access to reproductive health care." lowa lawmakers decided to forgo federal funding in order to deny government funding for Planned Parenthood, the country's largest abortion provider. Agency officials spoke to lawmakers this month and a new "workgroup" will meet "within weeks" to study the information gathered. The article says the data will be a "key factor in figuring out whether the funding cut to Planned Parenthood and other groups will result in fewer lowans receiving reproductive health care services like birth control, pregnancy testing and health screenings."



Food & Import Safety:

FOOD CHALLENGE ALLERGY TESTS ARE SAFE WHEN CONDUCTED IN PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/15, Lehman) reported that oral food challenge tests "are a safe way to diagnose food allergies" when conducted at physicians' offices, according to a US study. Researchers analyzed "records of more than 6,000 food challenges tests" performed "in allergy practices" in multiple US cities, finding "that only 2 percent produced...anaphylaxis" and "just 13 percent to 33 percent of patients had any type of allergic reaction." The study's senior author said, "Parents should know it's safe in a clinic with a physician that's skilled in performing oral food challenges," adding, "The food challenge, unfortunately at this time, is the only way to determine if a person has a life-threatening food allergy or not."

Nutrition & Obesity:

OBESITY MAY CONTRIBUTE TO CANCER, REVIEW STUDY SUGGESTS. The Deserte (UT) News (9/16, Leonard, 381K) reported obesity can contribute to the growth of cancer, according to a <u>literature review</u> published in Cancer Prevention Research. The researchers found multiple ways that obesity can contribute to cancer.

PATCH BURNS FAT OFF SPECIFIC BODY AREAS IN MICE. <u>USA Today</u> (9/16, Rossman, 8.62M) reported investigators "have designed a patch that may help people lose pounds by burning fat off specific areas of the body, such as the 'love handles.'" Researchers "tested a medicated skin patch on mice and found that injecting medicine using the patch led to a decrease in fat where the patch was applied." The <u>findings</u> were published online in ACS Nano. The <u>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u> (9/16, Toone, 1.16M) also covered the story.

Medicaid & CHIP:

SENATE, HOUSE WORK ON CRAFTING CHIP REAUTHORIZATION BILLS AS EXPIRATION DEADLINE APPROACHES. The Hill (9/17, Weixel, 1.68M) reports senators introduced a bipartisan bill last week to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for five years; however, its passage before the September 30 deadline remains uncertain, as funding for the bill is still undecided, as our House members' plans for their own reauthorization bill. Some House members reportedly want "a broader legislative package" that reauthorizes a slate of expiring Medicare programs, while some senators have expressed a desire to keep the CHIP reauthorization as a standalone bill. According to The Hill, "If Congress misses the deadline, states wouldn't run out of money for their programs right away, but they'll have to start planning to shut them down."

OPINION: BOTH PARTIES NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO REAUTHORIZE CHIP. Columnist Linda Chavez and former president of Bennett College for Women Julianne Malveaux wrote in <u>USA Today</u> (9/15, 8.62M) that lawmakers need to work together to protect programs for children's healthcare and should "act now" to reauthorize CHIP before it expires at the end of September. They wrote, "It's really a no-brainer for lawmakers, since CHIP is sacred to state and local governments nationwide," it is also "desperately needed" by low-income children, and "[m]ost importantly, it's a program that works." They concluded, "Congress, it's time to set aside your weapons in this case and honor that traditional common ground that has been so utterly elusive recently."

MASSACHUSETTS NURSING HOMES FIGHTING TO MITIGATE REIMBURSEMENT GAPS AMID THREAT OF CLOSURE. The Fitchburg (MA) Sentinel and Enterprise (9/17, Jasinski, 27K) reports on the increasing number of Massachusetts nursing homes that are facing closure amid financial troubles that "industry leaders blame [on] the state's current system of paying reimbursements for residents and patients covered by MassHealth." Some critics say the system, which uses 2007 figures, is outdated and leads to nursing home payment gaps of \$37 daily per resident that facilities must cover. The AHCA "reports that the gap in Massachusetts is the fourth highest Medicaid shortfall in the country." Legislators,



advocates, and operators cite fears of bankruptcy and closure, which they say would lead to disruptions in elder care and would displace staff. The State Legislature will consider several bills and budget provisions designed to address the problem.

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR DELAYS MORE THAN \$1 BILLION IN MEDICAID PAYMENTS AMID BUDGET IMPASSE. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/15, Navratil, Couloumbis, 1.71M) reported that Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf (D) said on Friday that the state would withhold nearly \$1.2 billion in payments to managed care organizations that cover the state's Medicaid beneficiaries. The article added that Wolf had warned "for weeks that Friday was to be a day of reckoning of sorts, since Medicaid payments to providers were due." Legislators passed a \$32 billion spending plan in June, but the state House and Senate each passed "sharply different revenue bills" on how to pay for the spending, and leaders have not yet come to an agreement. On Thursday, two private citizens and a state representative filed a lawsuit contending that the state constitution requires a balanced budget, and seeking an order to "freeze spending" and to "prohibit state officials from borrowing money" until a budget is in place, according to the article.

OPINION: PROPOSED MEDICAID CUTS SHIFT BURDEN TO STATES. Representative C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D-MD) wrote in the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> (9/15, 706K) that cuts to Medicaid proposed in the 2018 budget resolution would "shift costs back to Maryland, creating a tremendous burden for our state budget." Ruppersberger said that the cuts "would impact 975,400 people in Maryland who depend on Medicaid, including 77,000 seniors, 148,800 people with disabilities and 32,000 veterans," plus one out of three children in Maryland. He predicted that, "Given the tenacity of conservatives in opposing the ACA and expansions of Medicaid, we can expect that efforts to dismantle health care will continue to resurface in the federal budget proposal, negotiations around the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the coming continuing resolution debate and elsewhere."

CONTRACTOR'S BILLING ERROR COSTS WISCONSIN PHARMACIES \$2.7 MILLION. The Wisconsin State Journal (9/15, Wahlberg, 382K) reported that a state contractor incorrectly billed six Medicare Part D insurance companies \$2.7 million from October 2013 to February 2017 for claims involving more than 7,000 Medicaid recipients. The error affected 1,002 pharmacies in Wisconsin. The Medicaid program received "duplicate payments" because of the error and "the state is giving that money back to the insurance companies and telling 1,102 pharmacies to resubmit their claims to the companies."

Health & Medical News:

ANALYSIS: US HAS ACCEPTED SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR USE OF AGENT ORANGE USE IN VIETNAM WAR, BUT NOT IN ALL CASES OF ILLNESS. In an analysis, the New York Times (9/15, Nguyen, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) discussed the continuing effects of Agent Orange used by American military forces during the Vietnam War. The piece covered the stories of some Vietnamese hospital patients who are believed to be victims "of Operation Ranch Hand, the United States military's effort during the Vietnam War to deprive the enemy of cover and food by spraying defoliants." Both the Vietnamese and Americans who participated in the war were impacted by the chemical's use, and while legal action has brought "victory" for some who were exposed, others "never benefited from" such efforts "because their illnesses did not show up for years." The Times wrote that the US "government has acknowledged some of its responsibility" for the impact of using the chemical, but has continued to offer "bureaucratic excuse[s]" for the disparity between Agent Orange and some illnesses among the Vietnamese.

OPINION: PROPOSED CHANGES TO FTC RULES GOVERNING CONTACT LENS SALES WOULD BE AN "OVERREACH." Christopher J. Quinn, OD, the president of the American Optometric Association, wrote in an opinion piece in The Hill (9/15, 1.68M) that "a proposed change to Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regulations governing the sale of contact lenses" would be an "overreach," because "the relatively small number of complaints" from consumers "does not justify costly new industry-wide rules." Quinn argued that the proposal is "astounding, especially considering the costs that such a mandate would impose on thousands of vision practices operating as small businesses in communities



across the country."

MARYLAND STATE LAW THAT WOULD PROHIBIT "UNCONSCIONABLE" DRUG PRICE INCREASES IS UNDER SCRUTINY. Reuters (9/15, Beasley) reported that a Maryland state law that prohibits "unconscionable increases" in the prices of certain generic drugs is set to go into effect on October 1, and many groups are interested in the law's potential effect on other states considering similar measures. The article also reports that some pharmaceutical companies are seeking an injunction that would block the law from being enforced, while some public health advocates are encouraging consumers to report price increases after the law goes into effect.

SEN. BROWN CRITICIZES ALLERGAN'S DRUG PATENTS DEAL WITH SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE. Reuters (9/15, Wolfe) reported Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) criticized a deal made between Allergan and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe concerning drug patents. Brown said the new deal "rips off consumers" and that Congress should "close loopholes that drug companies exploit to avoid competition."

UCLA PHARMACY NOW FACING SANCTIONS AFTER CLOSING LAST YEAR. The Los Angeles Times (9/15, Christensen, 4.49M) reported that last year, UCLA closed a pharmacy after a state inspection found that the facility, the UCLA Medical Center Pharmaceutical Technology, had shipped out drugs "with expired and potentially dangerous ingredients." The California Board of Pharmacy then launched an investigation, which led the board to seek sanctions against the pharmacy and its former head.

FDA APPROVES LYMPHOMA DRUG. <u>USA Today</u> (9/15, Bomey, 8.62M) reported the Food and Drug Administration approved Bayer's Aliqopa [copanlisib] to treat "adult patients who have relapsed after at least two previous therapies for follicular B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma." The drug works by inhibiting "certain isoforms in malignant B cells."

<u>Fierce Pharma</u> (9/15, Helfand) reports the approval comes after a phase 2 trial found that the drug "could provoke a response in 58.7% of relapsed or refractory follicular lymphoma patients, completely ridding 14.4% of them of cancer."

NEOVACS CEO SAYS COMPANY'S EXPERIMENTAL LUPUS DRUG COULD GRAB MARKET SHARE. Reuters (9/15, Blamont) reported Neovacs CEO Miguel Sieler said that the company's experimental lupus drug may be able to grab market share from other treatments. Sieler said the company is in a phase 2 study for its experimental treatment, and the results are expected next year.

MANY PARENTS OF PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS ARE INADEQUATELY PREPARED TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN FROM HOME. Kaiser Health News (9/16, Bailey) reported many parent of pediatric cancer patients are being asked to "take on more complex, risky medical tasks for their loved ones." The article highlights the challenges associated with preventing bloodstream infections, which according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are associated with thousands of deaths each year.

STAFF OF CONNECTICUT MENTAL HOSPITAL SUSPENDED, ARRESTED AMID ABUSE ALLEGATIONS. The AP (9/17, Collins) reports that "thirty-one staff members...have been suspended, and nine have been arrested" at the Whiting Forensic Division mental hospital in Middletown, Connecticut amid "allegations of misconduct and abuse." The AP says the "allegations include staff abusing patients, overriding of doctors' orders and forgery of doctors' signatures on documents," based on information provided by a state senator.

VIRTUAL REALITY MAY ALLEVIATE PAIN THROUGH DISTRACTION, BRAIN CHANGES, STUDIES SUGGEST. Reuters (9/15, Rapaport) reported that virtual reality technology may bring pain relief through both distraction and causing "changes in the brain," according to a "<u>review</u> of six small studies." The review found that virtual reality may assist with "conditioning and exposure therapy," which "involves helping patients change their response to pain." The review's lead author, warned, however, "More research is needed to tell if virtual reality is truly effective" for pain treatment.



LOCAL AGENCIES CONCERNED BY NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA. The Pensacola (FL) News Journal (9/16, Robinson, 170K) reported that 33 infants "died before their first birthday" in Escambia County, Florida in 2016, with approximately 25 percent of the deaths "related to unsafe sleep practices," based on information provided by the Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition. The article says the "apparent spike" has caused a number of "local agencies" to "brainstorm ways to try to raise safe sleep awareness and education." The article states that the American Academy of Pediatrics "has recommended since 2005 that babies sleep exclusively on their backs" and "updated its policy recommendations in October 2016, stating 'infants should sleep in the same bedroom as their parents – but on a separate surface, such as a crib or bassinet, and never on a couch, armchair or soft surface." The Journal, however, adds that "the number of infant deaths...has plateaued in recent years, despite the AAP's relatively simple recommendations."

SEWAGE, CONTAMINATED WATER DISCHARGING IN FLORIDA AFTER IRMA. The Washington Post (9/15, Mufson, Dennis, 10.38M) reported that damage inflicted by Hurricane Irma and subsequent repair efforts have caused substantial amounts of raw sewage, waste water, and other harmful fluids like fuel to discharge "into streets, lakes, rivers and neighborhoods." The contaminated water poses serious health risks to residents and rescue workers, including increased risk of skin and intestinal infections, according to the article.

MAINE IMPLEMENTS MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOSTER SHOT REQUIREMENT TO FIGHT PERTUSSIS. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (9/15, Lawlor, 191K) reported that Maine has implemented "a new middle school booster shot requirement to protect against pertussis and other diseases." The measure "went into effect for students entering seventh grade in the 2017-18 school year," and health officials hope the rule will help reduce the state's "rising rate of pertussis cases," which is among "the highest...in the country."

KENTUCKY HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM TWO CASES OF INFLUENZA. The AP (9/18) reports the Kentucky Department for Public Health confirmed two cases of influenza in Jefferson County. Commissioner Hiram C. Polk, Jr. said that getting vaccinated is the recommended way to prevent the virus.

BILL PROPOSING LATER SCHOOL START TIMES IN CALIFORNIA WILL BE REVISITED NEXT YEAR, AUTHOR SAYS. The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/15, McGreevy, 4.49M) reported that a California bill mandating that "middle and high schools" start classes "no earlier than 8:30 a.m." has been tabled for the rest of the year after falling "well short of the votes needed for passing." State senator Anthony Portantino on Friday "said he will revisit the issue in January," according to the Times.

CRIMINAL TRIAL FOR FORMER NECC SUPERVISORY PHARMACIST TO BEGIN TUESDAY. The AP (9/17, Richer) reports that Glenn Chin, former supervisory pharmacist at the now-closed New England Compounding Center, is headed to trial on Tuesday for second-degree murder under federal racketeering law stemming from "the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak that killed 76 people and sickened hundreds of others." If convicted, Chin could face up to life in prison.

RESULTS FOR FAMILIAL AMYLOID POLYNEUROPATHY THERAPY EXPECTED BY END OF MONTH. STAT (9/15, Feuerstein, 43K) reports that Alnylam Pharmaceuticals "will announce the outcome of a phase 3 clinical trial of patisiran, the company's lead drug designed to treat a rare nerve disorder known as familial amyloid polyneuropathy," by the end of this month. The clinical trial, if successful, "will likely pave the way for Alnylam's first-ever drug approval, a significant landmark for any biotech and a crucial win for a company that has been dogged by safety problems in some of its pipeline drugs." If approved, patisiran would be the first approved drug "based on RNA interference, or RNAi, a technology that uses snippets of genetic code to shut down disease-causing genes."

ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL IN MONTANA DETECTS LEGIONELLA BACTERIA IN ITS WATER SUPPLY. The Missoulian (MT) (9/16, Erickson, 112K) reported St. Patrick Hospital is conducting a "full investigation" into the presence of bacteria legionella in the hospital after one patient was recently



infected and the hospital subsequently tested its water supply. After its water tested positive for the bacteria, the hospital clarified "that its drinking fountains and handwashing sinks are still safe," though they have taken "immediate steps to minimize any potential risks, including providing bottled water to those with aspiration risk," as well as "installing medical-grade filters on shower heads."

STUDY FINDS OHIOANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RECEIVE WORSE HEALTH CARE. The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (9/16, 456K) reported a study published in the Annals of Family Medicine found that Ohioans with developmental disabilities fare worse in terms of "health status, the quality of their health care, access to care, unmet health-care needs and number of hospitalizations and emergency department visits" compared to Ohioans without disabilities. According to lead author Jessica Prokup, "One of the big problems that we saw is that we have these huge health-care disparities and yet we're not training future physicians to even provide adequate care to patients with such complex needs. ... And not enough people see it as an issue to begin the process of change." Prokup is calling for more focus on the issue from medical schools.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FINDS "NO SOLE FACTOR" BEHIND FATAL BIRTH DEFECT SPIKE. The Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic (9/17, Rosbach, 82K) reports the Washington state Department of Health released a report last week finding that there was "no sole factor" responsible for the spike in fatal birth defects in Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties between 2010 and 2016. The department suspended its investigation in 2016 to focus on "surveillance, outreach and prevention." According to the report, "Neither the descriptive epidemiology of the anencephaly-affected pregnancies, the medical records-based case-control study of pregnancies from January 2010-January 2013, interviews of mothers of (neural tube defect)-affected pregnancies, nor investigation of community concerns identified a preventable cause for most of the NTD-affected pregnancies."

PHYSICIAN SAYS PEDIATRICIANS SHOULD INITIATE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACISM. In a STAT (9/15, 43K) op-ed, Stephanie White, MD, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, wrote, "Pediatricians can – and must – initiate, engage, and continue conversations about racism." Dr. White added, "Last summer, Dr. Benard P. Dreyer, now the immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, charged the pediatrics community to take an active role in confronting the epidemic of 'intolerance in the lives of children, adolescents, young adults, and their families,' which continues to spread across the" US. She added that the AAP's "Bright Futures Guidelines recommend that pediatricians address discrimination, prejudice, and lack of cultural opportunities at various stages throughout childhood."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/17, O'Donnell, 8.62M) reports healthcare experts discussing recent investigations into MedStar Washington Hospital Center's health department for its sewage leaks say the news underscores the fact that many medical facilities neglect to report or address safety violations, or often are not subject to penalties. The hospital is expected to implement a "corrective action" plan, although the problem has persisted for several years. One expert commenting on the issue, Lisa McGiffert, director of Consumer Reports' Safe Patient Project, suggested implementing regulatory changes such as conducting audits after safety lapses and CMS requiring more accountability to increase oversight of hospitals that have

continually violated or are likely to violate safety standards.

INVESTIGATIONS INTO DC HOSPITAL'S SAFETY VIOLATIONS INDICATE LACK OF PENALTIES.

OPINION: RECENT RESEARCH ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING OF GENETIC MUTATIONS' IMPACT ON CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS. Carrie L. Partch, a medical researcher of the University of California, Santa Cruz, writes for the AP (9/18) that the discovery of "a genetic mutation that causes night-owl behavior" could reveal new insight into how the human body functions at different times of day. Partch explains that the "clock protein" CRY1 delays sleepiness and can make it challenging "for night owls to wake up in the morning" even as "their longer-than-a-day internal clocks puts them in a perpetual state of jet lag." Partch observes that such revelations will allow medical researchers and scientists to "better able to design therapeutic treatments that harness life's natural rhythms," and that examining how "how CRY1 interacts with other clock proteins" can lead to further understanding of "how inherited mutations can wreak havoc on circadian rhythms."



AAP ISSUES FIRST REPORT ON ADDRESSING BODY TATTOOING, PIERCING AMONG ADOLESCENT PATIENTS. Perri Klass, MD, in the New York Times (9/18, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) discusses the American Academy of Pediatrics' first clinical report on piercing, tattooing, and scarification among adolescents and young adults. Klass notes that one of the lead authors, Dr. Cora Collette Breuner, AAP Committee on Adolescence chairwoman and professor, discussed questions pediatricians should ask patients to ensure they are aware of possible ramifications of tattooing and piercings. Dr. Breuner said physicians should avoid being "critical or judgmental" and instead should remember that a pediatrician's "job...is to be sure our kids are taken care of." Klass adds that the report opens an opportunity to discuss the impact of such decisions, noting the adverse medical effects of some changes.

<u>TIME</u> (9/17, Abrams, 5.85M) reports the AAP released its guidelines in the journal Pediatrics on Monday, and quotes Dr. Breuner as saying, "When counseling teens, I tell them to do some research, and to think hard about why they want a tattoo, and where on their body they want it." Dr. Breuner also said that while tattooing and piercing "services have come a long way, safety-wise...it's best to proceed with caution."

FLORIDA GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NEW RULES REQUIRING NURSING HOMES TO HAVE GENERATORS. The New York Times (9/16, Fink, Stevens, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reported that "nursing homes and assisted-living facilities" in Florida are now required to "have generators capable of maintaining comfortable temperatures for at least 96 hours" during a power outage, according to new rules announced by Gov. Rick Scott on Saturday. The facilities will have 60 days to meet the new requirements. The rules follow the deaths of eight residents of a south Florida nursing home after the facility "lost power to its cooling system in the wake of Hurricane Irma." The article adds that "Kristen Knapp, a spokeswoman for the Florida Health Care Association, an advocate for nursing homes, said her group was reviewing the rules."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/16, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), <u>USA Today</u> (9/16, Payne, Sarkissian, 8.62M), <u>The Hill</u> (9/16, Bowden, 1.68M) the <u>Miami Herald</u> (9/17, KlasHerald, 701K) and the <u>Allentown (PA) Morning Call</u> (9/14, 312K) also covered the story.

NURSING HOME WHERE RESIDENTS DIED LACKED EMERGENCY PLAN SPECIFYING AIR CONDITIONING POLICY. The Miami Herald (9/16, Marbin, Koh, 701K) reported Florida nursing home the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, where eight residents died in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma as the facility went without air conditioning, in its emergency management plan submitted to Broward County regulators in July lacked details of how the facility would provide residents with climate control if its power went out. CMS in 2016 imposed rules requiring all nursing homes to have plans indicating "alternate sources of energy to maintain temperatures," although the rule did not require the facilities to implement the policy until November 2017. Florida Health Care Association spokeswoman Kristen Knapp "said those alternative energy sources could include equipment like spot coolers and fans," some of which the Hollywood residence used.

COLUMN: PITTSBURGH OPERATORS CONSIDER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AFTER FLORIDA NURSING HOME DEATHS. Sean D. Hamill wrote in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/15, 516K) that following the news of eight Florida nursing home residents' deaths after the facility lacked air conditioning in the wake of Hurricane Irma, several Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, hospital operators began examining elder facilities' emergency preparedness. Hamill said that while nursing home officials reached a "consensus...that the horrific situation in Florida is unlikely in Western Pennsylvania," they underscored the fact that experiencing emergency situations remains a possibility, and that if a similar scenario unfolded in Pittsburgh, "safety and emergency preparedness officers said they are ready with backup plans to backup plans that would ensure their residents are safe." Hamill noted that CMS is implementing "more stringent" federal regulations on nursing homes this year

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS' DEATHS A "TRAGEDY." The Miami Herald (9/17, Brown, 701K) reports on the stories of the eight nursing home residents "who perished in the unbearable heat of a Hollywood," Florida, nursing home that lost power during Hurricane Irma and was unable to provide air conditioning. While the precise "cause of the eight victims' deaths has not been released," the circumstances



surrounding their passing are "a cruel epitaph for those most vulnerable — and a tragedy that brought new scrutiny of how Florida and the nation care for elders, those with disabilities and the infirm."

WPOST: FLORIDA NURSING HOME RESIDENTS FORCED TO ENDURE "INEXPLICABLE HORROR" BEFORE DEATH. In an editorial, the Washington Post (9/17, 10.38M) laments the "inexplicable horror" of the deaths of eight elderly people "found in a sweltering nursing home in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma last week." The Post says the investigation into the deaths "needs to sort out the conflicting accounts of what happened to determine who...dropped the ball in protecting these people," and their must be "a thorough review of nursing-home policies and practices and state oversight."

RESIDENT OF FLORIDA NURSING HOME WHERE EIGHT DIED SUES FOR "RECKLESS" NEGLIGENCE. ABC News (9/17, 2.83M) reports on its website that Rosa Cabrera, a 94-year-old Florida resident living at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, "where eight residents died after an air conditioning system failed in the wake of Hurricane Irma," is suing the center. She alleges it showed "negligence and reckless indifference" toward residents, and said Cabrera, who is a double amputee "without the ability to walk or live independently," endured injuries linked to heat exposure. The complaint alleges the center should have been aware that Irma would lead to power failure, and that it should have considered "the temperature inside the facility would be unsafe and dangerous."

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (9/16, Chokey, 530K) also reported.

ASTHMA SYMPTOMS WORSEN WITH AGE, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The Washington Post (9/17, Graham, 10.38M) reports on the increased difficulties associated with asthma as one ages, saying that older adults who have the condition "are five times as likely to die from the condition as younger asthma patients, according to a new review of asthma in seniors." According to some estimates, "up to 9 percent of older adults are thought to have asthma." The new review cited reduced lung elasticity, increasingly rigid chest walls, weaker muscles associated with the respiratory system, and weight issues that cause strain on breathing as factors exacerbating asthma among older adults.

NYTIMES, PROPUBLICA EXAMINE RISING DRUG PRICES. The New York Times (9/17, Thomas, Ornstein, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that for the past four months it has teamed with ProPublica to examine why drug prices "have been rising, and who is to blame," and to "shed light on the games that are being played to keep prices high, often without consumers' knowledge or consent." The Times says its reporting "has turned up some counterintuitive stories, like how insurance companies sometimes require patients to take brand-name drugs – and refuse to cover generic alternatives – even when that means patients have to pay more out of pocket." The piece notes several stories related to drug prices and their impact on consumers that have "caught our eye."

RESEARCHERS EXAMINING CHILD BRAIN CANCER SAY STUDY SUGGESTS "KINDER" TREATMENTS MAY BE IN STORE. BBC News (UK) (9/18, 1.61M) reports a study published in Lancet Oncology "found there are seven types of the most common malignant child brain cancer," prompting researchers to offer suggestions for "kinder" treatment options. Treatments such as surgery and chemotherapy can "leave children with life-altering injuries," leading researchers to suggest developing targeted treatments that avoid the unpleasant side-effects of other, more "aggressive" methods.

ACROSS THE US, THERE ARE ABOUT 35,000 HOME BIRTHS EACH YEAR. The Descret (UT) News (9/17, Leonard, 381K) reported that across the US, "there are about 35,000 home births each year, with about a fourth of those happening unexpectedly or unplanned, according to a release from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists." ACOG "encourages women to give birth in hospitals, but purports that women have the right to make their own choices regarding delivery, as long as they know there are increased risks" tied to giving birth at home.

EFFECTIVENESS OF WEIGHT-LOSS DIET MAY WELL DEPEND ON WHICH BACTERIA ARE PRESENT IN THE GUT, RESEARCHERS SAY. The New York Times (9/15, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reported that the effectiveness of a weight-loss diet may well "depend on which



bacteria" are in a person's gut. Researchers arrived at this conclusion after using feces samples to analyze "the ratio of two gut bacteria, Prevotella and Bacteroides, in 62 overweight people." Participants "on the high-fiber diet with a high Prevotella to Bacteroides ratio lost an average of 10 pounds of body fat, three and a half pounds more that those on the diet with a low ratio." The <u>findings</u> were published in the International Journal of Obesity.

SUICIDE AMONG MILITARY VETERANS ESPECIALLY HIGH IN THE WESTERN US AND RURAL AREAS, RESEARCHER SAY. The AP (9/16, Yen) reported, "Suicide among military veterans is especially high in the western US and rural areas," researchers from the Department of Veterans Affairs found. The data reveal that "wide state-by-state disparities and suggest social isolation, gun ownership and access to health care may be factors." The article also cited statistics on suicide rates for veterans versus non-veterans, and quotes a RAND epidemiologist who said the data begs "closer investigation into why suicide rates by veteran status are higher, including the role that opiates play." The Hill (9/16, Delk, 1.68M) and the Fox News (9/17, 12.87M) website also covered the story.

HIGH INSULIN PRICES FORCING SOME DIABETES PATIENTS TO TAKE LESS INSULIN OR EVEN SKIP MEDICATION. Newsday (NY) (9/17, Ricks, 1.64M) reports the high insulin costs are forcing some Long Island patients with diabetes to take less insulin than prescribed or even to forgo taking their medication. As a result, patients are coming to hospital emergency departments "sick because they didn't take enough insulin, or took none at all, with some being admitted to critical care units, according to physicians and others who treat them." Some patients are forced to choose "their insulin or food" or "their insulin or shelter." For its part, the American Diabetes Association "is pressing forward with a petition started last year to halt high insulin prices."

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS OFTEN DISREGARD THE PAIN OF PATIENTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE. In an over 3,000 word article, <u>STAT</u> (9/18, Begley, 43K) reports that hospitals and physicians often disregard the pain felt by patients with sickle cell disease, and healthcare providers' increasing reluctance to prescribe opioids is making the problem worse. The article reports that "racism is a factor," because most patients with the disease in the US are black, and providers often assume they are just seeking drugs when they request treatment for their pain. Dr. Howard Mell, a spokesman for the American College of Emergency Physicians, said, "A lot of sickle patients are chronic pain patients, and state guidelines say you don't treat chronic pain in the ED. These patients are like most humans: Some of them are addicts. I have to verify the need for these powerful medications." The article reports that patients should "be given pain medication within an hour of registering in the emergency department, with additional doses until the pain is controlled," according to guidelines from the National Institutes of Health.

National News:

AS HE PREPARES TO ADDRESS UN, TRUMP DUBS NORTH KOREA'S KIM JONG-UN "ROCKET MAN." The President's tweet Sunday morning mocking North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un as "Rocket Man" is garnering significant media attention. All three networks reported Sunday night on the tweet. Media reports widely note the President's remark comes as he prepares to address the UN General Assembly for the first time on Tuesday and that North Korea is expected to be a central part of his speech.

The AP (9/17, Superville) reports President Trump "mocked" the North Korean leader in a tweet saying he and South Korean President Moon Jae-in "discussed North Korea during their latest telephone conversation Saturday." The CBS Weekend News (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano) said the President "launched a twitter insult at North Korea's leader," and "coin[ed] a new nickname" for him. On NBC Nightly News (9/17, story 3, 2:55, Snow, 16.61M), Kelly O'Donnell said, "Today amid tweets, the President weighed in on a dire threat as he described a call with President Moon of South Korea and taunted North Korea's leader with a new mocking label."

Asked about Trump's description of Kim on Fox News Sunday, National Security Adviser McMaster said "Rocket Man" was "a new one and I think maybe for the president." But, McMaster added, "that's where



the rockets are coming from. Rockets, though, we ought to probably not laugh too much about because they do represent a great threat to all." <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas, 14.63M) reported there was "no comment from the White House" on the President's tweet.

<u>USA Today</u> (9/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports the tweet "came a day before Trump conferences with members of the United States General Assembly, where North Korea's development of nuclear weapons – and its threats to use them against the United States and allies – will be a major topic." The <u>Washington Post</u> (9/17, Nakamura, Morello, 10.38M) similarly says the President's "Twitter snark came two weeks after Kim's regime undertook its biggest nuclear test to date," <u>Politico</u> (9/17, Griffiths, 3.6M) that Trump took "a dig at North Korea's leader," and <u>Townhall</u> (9/17, Meads, 523K) that he "issued a new nickname for North Korean potbellied dictator."

NPR (9/17, 2.4M) reports that during their conversation Saturday night, Trump and Moon declared their commitment "to continuing to take steps to strengthen deterrence and defense capabilities and to maximize economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea," according to the White House. The New York Post (9/17, Moore; Schultz, 4.31M) reports Trump also "signaled that United Nations' sanctions…are working as he referred to 'long gas lines' in North Korea."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/17, Richardson, 541K) writes, "You know you've run afoul of President Trump when he gives you a nickname." The Times says Trump's "approach represents the opposite of that of President George W. Bush, who gave out dozens of pet names for staffers, family, friends and foreign leaders. In the vast majority of cases, Mr. Bush's nicknames were affectionate, not insulting."

The Washington Post (9/17, Selk, 10.38M) similarly notes that "Rocket Man" is the "latest in a long line of nicknames" created by the President. "Without addressing the geopolitical wisdom of tweet-baiting an unpredictable dictator," The Post notes that "even some of Trump's critics had to admit that he'd come up with a pretty clever name."

ABC World News Tonight (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas, 14.63M) reported President Trump is already in New York City in advance of his address to the UN, where North Korea is expected to take "center stage." ABC's Gloria Riviera noted that "we do not anticipate seeing either Russia's President or China's President – both leaders are key in applying pressure on North Korea, but the President will not have the chance to make his case personally for harsher sanctions."

Reuters (9/17, Nichols) likewise says the nuclear threat posed by North Korea "looms large this week over the" UN General Assembly, where "North Korean diplomats will have a front-row seat...for Trump's speech on Tuesday morning, which will touch on the escalating crisis." National Security Adviser McMaster said Friday, "This is not an issue between the United States and North Korea. This is an issue between the world and North Korea." The CBS Weekend News (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano) too reported that when Trump addresses the General Assembly, Ambassador Haley "said North Korea will be front and center," and the Los Angeles Times (9/17, King, 4.49M) says the gathering is "expected to focus on North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threat."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports that as the President heads to the UN "to meet with world leaders, and many of them are anxious – not just about global national security challenges, but about Trump himself." While the President "hopes to use his first appearance before the UN General Assembly to rally other countries against North Korea's nuclear threats, some world leaders are still reeling from their last interactions with the somewhat testy Trump at global summits earlier this year."

Calling it a "pivotal week" for the President, the <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/17, 521K) says Trump's appearance "will come amidst concerns over North Korea's missile program, continued unrest in Venezuela, increasing tensions between the US and Russia, the ongoing civil war in Syria, and a whole host of global issues." He also "has a packed schedule" of meetings with foreign leaders.

On NBC Nightly News (9/17, story 3, 2:55, Snow, 16.61M), Kelly O'Donnell also said the President has "a packed week ahead. [On Monday], the President meets with leaders of Israel and France," and he'll be



on "center stage Tuesday, where his speech will praise values that bind democratic nations, while also calling for more urgent action." Secretary of State Tillerson said Sunday, "He's going to address these specific threats of North Korea, Iran, terrorism, global terrorism, and why it is important that all of us come together and confront these as a unified body."

According to the Korea Times (9/17, Whan-Woo, 160K), Trump will hold also a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. Analysts said they expect the leaders to discuss "possible military options against North Korea."

The Hill (9/17, Manchester, 1.68M) reports Trump, who once described the UN as "a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time," is also expected to call for UN reform during his speech Tuesday. Senior level officials who "previewed themes" in Trump's speech predicted his "call for change will set the tone for US involvement during a packed week of foreign policy." Ambassador Haley told CNN's "State of the Union," "It is a new day at the UN. I think that the pleas he made in terms of trying to see change at the United Nations have been heard, and I think what we'll do is see him respond to that."

Reuters (9/17) reports Trump this week will try to "boost support for reforming" the UN, which he once called "a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time." The Hill (9/17, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reports National Security Adviser McMaster told ABC's "This Week" that Trump "is going to say the United Nations can't be effective unless it reforms its bureaucracy and unless it achieves a higher degree of accountability for member states."

Noting that the two have sometimes appeared at odds with each other, the New York Times (9/17, Sengupta, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says a "crucial test" of Haley's influence on the President "will come this week during Mr. Trump's maiden visit to the United Nations, the organization he has repeatedly pilloried and whose very reason for being – international cooperation – he has dismissed with his promise of 'only America first." According to the Times, "Many credit Ms. Haley for leading what Richard Gowan, a fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations, called 'the administration's grudging but growing recognition of the UN's significance."

Aides Warn North Korea Will Be "Destroyed" If Threats Continue. Several members of the Administration appeared on Sunday morning shows where they addressed the threat posed by North Korea, among other topics. <u>USA Today</u> (9/17, Jackson, 8.62M) reports Trump's top aides "warmed up for this week's series of United Nations meetings by calling for more global pressure on North Korea."

The AP (9/17, Superville) likewise says the President's top advisers "said the isolated nation would face destruction unless it shelves its weapons programs and bellicose threats." Secretary of State Tillerson "held out hope the North would return to the bargaining table," though Ambassador Haley said the Security Council had "pretty much exhausted" all its options. National Security Adviser McMaster told ABC's This Week, Kim Jong-Un is "going to have to give up his nuclear weapons because the president has said he's not going to tolerate this regime threatening the United States and our citizens with a nuclear weapon." Asked if that meant Trump would launch a military strike, McMaster said "he's been very clear about that, that all options are on the table." The Washington Examiner (9/17, Lim, 465K) also reports McMaster's remarks.

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/17, John, Niquette, 4.52M) says Tillerson "made a rare appearance on a Sunday talk show" where he stressed that the US strategy is to pursue a "peaceful pressure campaign" based on "what he called the four 'nos': not seeking either regime change or collapse in North Korea, an accelerated re-unification of the Korean peninsula, or a reason to send in military forces."

The Washington Post (9/17, Nakamura, Morello, 10.38M) reports Tillerson told On CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday morning, Tillerson said that if diplomacy fails to coerce North Korea to the negotiating table, "our military option will be the only one left. So all of this is backed up by a very strong and resolute military option. But be clear, we seek a peaceful solution to this." Tillerson also warned on CBS' Face The Nation that as North Korea continues to test its weapons, the timetable is growing shorter and China will



need to step up.

AFP (9/17) says Haley also "kept up the rhetorical pressure ahead" of the General Assembly, asserting that if the North should pose a serious threat to the US or its allies, "North Korea will be destroyed." Haley told CNN's State of the Union, "None of us want war. We wanted to be responsible and go to all diplomatic means to get their attention first. If that doesn't work, General Mattis will take care of it."

Reuters (9/17, Chiacu) reports that asked about President Trump's warning last month that the North Korean threat will be met with "fire and fury," Haley said, "It was not an empty threat. If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed. And we all know that."

The Washington Times (9/17, Richardson, 541K) and Politico (9/17, Meyer, 3.6M) similarly report Haley's comments, while the New York Post (9/17, Moore, 4.31M) reports that when asked about President Trump calling the new UN penalties "not a big deal," Haley said 90 percent of North Korea's trade has been cut off, further isolating the rogue regime. "We have economically strangled North Korea at this point and they have said as much. I think what the president's saying is, 'Look we've done all this, but we can do a whole lot more.' Everybody in the international community sees what a big deal it is."

Sen. Mike Rounds said on Fox News Sunday Morning Futures (9/17, Bartiromo, 1.8M) that President Trump "makes it very clear that there are military options, but that we would prefer to have a diplomatic solution that would be better for everyone." He added, "I think also he has to send a message to China that they do have a responsibility here and that they can help us to eliminate the possible use of military forces in the future based upon our own time frame and I hope that that's the message that he's able to convey."

Sen. John McCain said on <u>CBS' Face The Nation</u> (9/17, Dickerson, 3.05M), "This is one of the longest standing crises that we have faced. Three previous administrations have tried to make deals with North Korea in order to stop the steady progress they have been making towards the acquisition of nuclear...weapons and the means to deliver them." He added, "It seems to me China is very important and, yet we can't revisit that same old scenario we had before. So we're going to have to do a number of things, including incredible emphasis on missile defense in South Korea and our own missile defense system."

Julie Hirschfield Davis of the New York Times said on <u>CNN Inside Politics</u> (9/17, 935K), "I think some of this is the standard diplomatic maneuvering you see. A diplomatic option, talks, negotiations really have no compelling case to be made for them unless there is a threat of something else if that doesn't yield something."

US Seeking To Identify Sources Of North Korea's Rocket Fuel. The New York Times (9/17, Broad, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that North Korea's recent missile launches were powered by "a rare, potent rocket fuel that American intelligence agencies believe initially came from China and Russia." The US is "scrambling to determine whether those two countries are still providing the ingredients for the highly volatile fuel and, if so, whether North Korea's supply can be interrupted, either through sanctions or sabotage." Some experts believe the US "should focus on the fuel, either to halt it, if possible, or to take advantage of its volatile properties to slow the North's program," but "it may well be too late. Intelligence officials believe that the North's program has advanced to the point where it is no longer as reliant on outside suppliers, and that it may itself be making the deadly fuel."

Report: North Korea Building Nuclear Submarine. The Washington Times (9/17, Taylor, 541K) reports Japan's Sekai Nippo – citing an "informed" but unnamed "source familiar with the North Korean situation" – says North Korea is secretly building a nuclear-powered submarine. The newspaper "said the size of the nuclear-powered submarine under construction is unclear, but that the Kim Jong Un regime in Pyongyang hopes to have it deployed within three years." The Times notes that the claim could "not be independently verified" and US intelligence sources "could not immediately be reached for comment."



Bank Of Korea: South Korea Halves Investments In China. Yonhap (9/17, Dong, 15K) reports South Korean companies "have reduced their investments in China by nearly half this year as it has become difficult to do business there amid Beijing's growing economic retaliation against Korea's deployment of a US missile defense system." According to the Bank of Korea, South Korea's direct investment in China between January and July of this year was "down 43.7 percent from...the same period last year."

South's Humanitarian Aid Offer To North "Largely Unwelcomed." The Korea Times (9/17, Lee, 160K) reports South Korea's plan to offer \$8 million in humanitarian assistance to North Korea "is producing a frosty reaction at home and abroad due to its timing." According to the Times, "criticism is mounting over the timing of the announcement, which came only two days" after the UN Security Council adopted a new sanctions on Pyongyang. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe asked Moon Jae-in "to consider the timing of the proposed aid," and the US "also expressed considerable discomfort on the matter."

AUTHORITIES ALLOW RESIDENTS TO RETURN TO FLORIDA KEYS. Victor Oquendo reported on ABC World News Tonight (9/17, story 3, 2:15, Llamas, 14.63M) that as authorities on Sunday reopened the Florida Keys "from Marathon to Key West," FEMA warned that "basically every house there was impacted." Oquendo added that "more than 20,000 in the Keys [are] still without power, and more than 600,000 throughout the state. ... Officials warning those returning, the Florida Keys are a virtual war zone." On the CBS Weekend News (9/17, lead story, 2:30, Quijano), Elaine Quijano described Florida as "staggering to its feet" after the storm which is "blamed for at least 34 deaths" in the state. Manuel Bojorquez added that FEMA "estimates a quarter of homes in the Keys were destroyed," and with "electricity and sewer services...intermittent in the Keys, and the water...not yet safe to drink," authorities are "encouraging anyone coming back to be as self-sufficient as possible and bring water, food and tents."

Florida Town Faces Potential Health Crisis In Wake Of Hurricane. The Naples (FL) Daily News (9/17, 142K) reports that emergency responders in the "low-income fishing community" of Everglades City, Florida "may be faced with a deadly public health crisis as families spend day after day in the mud, mold and water left behind by 10 feet of storm surge that destroyed hundreds of homes." The "potentially toxic stormwater has raised the specter of widespread infection, sent at least half a dozen to the hospital, cost one man his leg and may have sickened another who died Saturday." The Daily News says that "conditions in Everglades City are ripe for infections that could turn deadly," according to Dr. Robert Tober, medical director for Collier County EMS,

Rooney Refutes Rumor ICE Agents Waiting To Pick Undocumented Immigrants Who Seek Aid.

Rep. Francis Rooney was asked on MSNBC's Politics Nation (9/17, 496K) about rumors that ICE agents are waiting to pick up undocumented immigrants when they attempt to get aid. Rooney said, "I heard that rumor but when I was down there didn't see it. ... I also understand Governor Scott made it clear...that no illegal aliens were going to be rounded up because they come forward to get food."

Sign Language Interpreter Appeared To Sign "Pizza" And "Bear Monster." The New York Times (9/17, Caron, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that as Hurricane Irma approached Florida, "Manatee County officials held a news conference to inform residents of mandatory evacuation orders for those most at risk." While Robin DiSabatino of the Board of County Commissioners "urged those in low-lying areas and flood zones to seek higher ground and consider staying at shelters," deaf residents received a different message as the interpreter appeared to sign "pizza" and then "bear monster." The interpreter, who "often appeared unsure of himself," and paused frequently, "immediately drew ire on social media as commenters expressed their disbelief."

NYTimes Reporter Embeds With FEMA Search-And-Rescue Team During Irma Deployment. The New York Times (9/17, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma "offered glimpses into a little-noticed arm of the nation's disaster response system: the network of 28 urban search-and-rescue teams that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can send into crisis zones." FEMA "said it had mobilized all 28 of the task forces to respond to Hurricane Harvey," and for Irma, "the federal and state authorities relied on 22 of the task forces." The Times story provides an



account from a Times reporter and photographer who embedded with California Task Force 1 "for five days during its deployment to Florida."

Many Still Without Power, Water On St. Maarten. ABC World News Tonight (9/17, story 2, 2:00, Llamas, 14.63M) reported the "new hurricane bearing down on the storm-ravaged Caribbean" as the "tropical paradise" of St. Maarten "is becoming a living hell." Among those stranded on the island, "many...have no power, no clean water, and no gas for the generators. Relief supplies are getting in. But the demand is huge."

FOX'S HENRY: MEDIA NOT GIVING TRUMP CREDIT FOR HURRICANE RESPONSE. Fox News chief national correspondent Ed Henry said on Fox News MediaBuzz (9/17, 1.43M) that while the media described Hurricanes Harvey and Irma as a test for the Trump Administration, "nobody has come back and said, 'You know what, the President did pretty good.' I think that is one of the mainstream media's big credibility problems right now. It's just anti-Trump almost everything and when he does a good job, they can't say, 'Hey, that was a pretty good job.' That would make the legitimate criticism of the mistakes he does make sound a lot more credible."

FLORIDA NURSING HOMES TO HOLD SUMMIT ON SCOTT'S NEW GENERATOR RULE. The Miami Herald (9/17, KlasHerald, 701K) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott announced Saturday "that he was directing two state agencies to implement emergency rules to apply to all 685 nursing homes and 3,109 assisted living facilities in the state to require them to 'obtain ample resources, including a generator and the appropriate amount of fuel, to sustain operations and maintain comfortable temperatures for at least 96 hours following a power outage." While Florida's nursing home industry "expressed support" for the emergency rule, it has "concerns about the practicality of implementing it — especially in time for the end of this hurricane season." The industry's trade association "has called a 'Nursing Center Emergency Preparedness Summit' on Friday in Tallahassee" to discuss their concerns.

In an editorial, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/17, 10.38M) laments the "inexplicable horror" of the deaths of eight elderly people "found in a sweltering nursing home in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma last week." The Post says the investigation into the deaths "needs to sort out the conflicting accounts of what happened to determine who…dropped the ball in protecting these people," and their must be "a thorough review of nursing-home policies and practices and state oversight."

SCHUMER ASKS FTC TO LAUNCH "GOUGE WATCH" ON OIL PRICES AFTER HARVEY, IRMA. The New York Post (9/17, Moore, Logan, 4.31M) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer has called on the federal government "to begin a 'gouge watch' to ensure 'big oil' isn't taking advantage of motorists" after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Schumer said Sunday, "Gas prices should come back down to earth just as fast as they went up, but right now, my worry is they will not fall as fast as they should. ... That is why I am asking the FTC to launch a 'gouge watch' with oil producers, transporters and refiners alike. ... The only thing that makes a devastating natural disaster worse is the idea that that big oil could be making a buck off of the mess and hosing consumers, even after the storm has passed us by and the recovery has begun." Schumer has written to acting FTC Chairwoman Maureen Ohlhausen "to ask her agency to keep a close eye on prices to keep oil companies honest."

PROVIDING TEMPORARY, LONG-TERM HOUSING A MAJOR TEST FOR FEMA IN HARVEY RECOVERY. The Wall Street Journal (9/17, Frosch, Kusisto, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that finding temporary and long-term housing for people displaced by Hurricane Harvey is a significant test for FEMA, which has so far approved more than \$460 million for storm victims so far, much of which will go to housing assistance and hotel rooms for the displaced. In addition, the agency ordered some 4,500 manufactured-housing units after Harvey. In a separate story, the Wall Street Journal (9/17, Frosch, Kusisto, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) says Federal, Texas and local officials are struggling to find housing for storm victims as tens of thousands are unable to return to their homes.

OFFICIALS MOVE TO GUARD AGAINST EXPLOSION IN MOSQUITO POPULATION AFTER HARVEY. Omar Villafranca reported on the <u>CBS Weekend News</u> (9/17, story 9, 1:55, Quijano) that the mosquito population in Harris County, Texas "is expected to explode after Hurricane Harvey left behind



countless pools of stagnant water." To guard against "the threat of diseases like West Nile and Zika, an all-out assault has been launched." Harris County trucks "have sprayed more than 70,000 acres, and for the past several nights, Air Force Reserves C-130 planes have flown over southeast Texas, spraying an EPA-approved mosquito killing chemical."

HURRICANE MARIA MOVING TOWARD CARIBBEAN. The <u>CBS Weekend News</u> (9/17, story 2, 0:20, Quijano) reported, "Hurricane Jose continues to rumble towards the East Coast" but is "not expected to make landfall." However, "a potentially larger threat, Hurricane Maria, is strengthening in the Atlantic, targeting Caribbean islands, still reeling from Hurricane Irma."

In its lead story, <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/17, lead story, 2:05, Llamas, 14.63M) reported Maria's current path "looks similar to Irma," but computer models "hint" Maria "may go out to sea" instead of crossing over the Caribbean islands like Irma did. By contrast, <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/17, story 4, 1:40, Snow, 16.61M) said Maria "could cause more damage in already-hit-hard parts of the Caribbean." It is currently "strengthening as it heads for Barbuda, St. Maarten, and the Virgin Islands."

WPOST ANALYSIS CONSIDERS "SOBERING" LESSONS FROM HARVEY, IRMA. The Washington Post (9/17, Achenbach, Hauslohner, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports in an analysis that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma "have provided a sobering lesson in the power of nature, along with some modest reassurance about how Americans respond when calm blue skies turn a violent gray." The Post adds that "the welcome news from the Harvey and Irma hurricanes is that, in a crisis, neighbors help neighbors." Moreover, the government "did not stumble and bumble as it did initially during the Hurricane Katrina disaster," and "improved storm track forecasts gave millions of people and civic leaders time to prepare." However, there were "moments of confusion and chaos, as well as tragic mistakes."

METEOROLOGIST QUESTIONS MEDIA NARRATIVE LINKING HARVEY, IRMA TO CLIMATE CHANGE. In an op-ed for the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), Ryan Maue, a research meteorologist and adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, writes that while a media narrative emerged in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma that linked the storms to climate change, his research has shown that over the last 50 years, tropical storms and hurricanes have not increased in frequency or accumulated energy but remained variable from one year to the next.

MCMASTER: TRUMP BETTER OFF WITHOUT BANNON AND THOSE WHO PUSHED "NARROW AGENDAS." National Security Adviser McMaster was asked on "Fox News Sunday," whether the Trump Administration is better off without former chief strategist Steve Bannon. Fox News (9/17, Weber, 12.87M) reports, "McMaster said....the White House's National Security Council is better after having removed adviser Steve Bannon and others who pushed 'their own narrow agendas." McMaster is quoted as saying that the NSC "has served the president well in bringing him multiple options. ... The administration is better off when we can serve the president by integrating and coordinating across all of our departments and agencies ... and present the president with multiple options. What's important is to have an inclusive process ... not to try to advance your own agenda." The Washington Post (9/17, Gearan, 10.38M) reports in its "Post Politics" blog that McMaster said it's "important...to have an inclusive process, not to try to manipulate into a particular decision or to advance your own agenda." Asked if Bannon was guilty of such manipulation, "McMaster denied that there was an active feud between the two men and repeated his goal of open discussion of competing viewpoints."

Breitbart (9/17, Key, 2.42M) quotes McMaster as saying, "There were some who tried to operate outside of that process for their own narrow agendas, and that didn't serve the president well." The New York Post (9/17, Schultz, 4.31M) reports "McMaster implied" that Trump and the NSC "are better off now that...Bannon has left." By contrast, the Washington Examiner (9/17, Quinn, 465K) reports McMaster "declined to address specifically whether the Trump administration is now better off without Steve Bannon," and "attempted to downplay reports of feuds between him and Bannon."

Breitbart News Senior Editor at Large Joel B. Pollak responded to McMaster's comments by saying, "Bannon's only agenda was Trump's campaign promises on his whiteboard," <u>Breitbart</u> (9/17, Wong, 2.42M) reports, adding that "McMaster, arguably, has tried to steer the president away from that populist,



nationalist agenda, and towards one he believes serves the country better." According to Breitbart, "McMaster has reportedly urged the president to recertify the Iran deal," has "repeatedly argued against the use of the term 'radical Islamic terrorism," has "tried to put other words in the president's mouth — promising allies at a NATO summit in May that Trump would reaffirm Article Five of the convention," and has "convinc[ed] the president to go against his earlier instincts and agree to a nearly 4,000-troop increase in Afghanistan, retrying the same strategy the military wanted to pursue in 2009, but this time without a exit date."

AP ANALYSIS: BOSSERT A "BASTION OF COMPETENCE" IN A TURBULENT WHITE HOUSE. The AP (9/17, Kellman) reports that White House Homeland Security Adviser Bossert is "squarely out front as Trump's details man on the hurricane recovery effort," and when the President "makes his first presidential visit to the UN General Assembly this coming week, Bossert is expected to be there as well." According to "current and former White House aides," Bossert "has been a bastion of competence in a White House riven by feuding, investigations and Trump's unpredictable temper." In an indication of his trust in Bossert, the President has sought "his advice in private meetings and allow[ed] him to speak for the administration in the most public of settings, from Sunday talk shows to the White House podium."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: TRUMP LEGAL TEAM SPLIT OVER HOW MUCH TO COOPERATE WITH MUELLER PROBE. The New York Times (9/17, Baker, Vogel, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that attorney for President Trump are grappling "with how much to cooperate with the special counsel looking into Russian election interference, an internal debate that led to an angry confrontation last week between two White House lawyers." The Times says, "The debate... has pitted Donald F. McGahn II, the White House counsel, against Ty Cobb, a lawyer brought in to manage the response to the investigation. Mr. Cobb has argued for turning over as many of the emails and documents requested by the special counsel as possible in hopes of quickly ending the investigation — or at least its focus on Mr. Trump. Mr. McGahn supports cooperation, but has expressed worry about setting a precedent that would weaken the White House long after Mr. Trump's tenure is over."

Cohen To Appear Before Senate Intelligence Committee On Tuesday. On its website, CNN (9/17, Watkins, Acosta, Alesci, 33.59M) reported that Trump attorney Michael Cohen "told CNN on Sunday that he expects to appear this Tuesday before the Senate Intelligence Committee. It is expected that the committee staff will interview Cohen, a source familiar with the matter told CNN. Cohen is not expected to be under oath during the appearance." His "appearance before the committee is also voluntary, a source with direct knowledge of the process told CNN." Reuters (9/17, Holland, Zengerle) reports that Cohen "confirmed that he would testify to the committee on Tuesday and said he did not know whether it would be in a closed session or public." The New York Post (9/17, Moore, 4.31M) reports that Cohen "has admitted that he reached out during the campaign to a spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin for help on a real estate project in Moscow but the aide never got back to him and the development never got off the ground."

Feinstein Expects Trump Jr. To Testify Under Oath "This Fall." Bloomberg News (9/17, Decker, Niquette, 4.52M) reports that during a Sunday appearance on CNN's "State of the Union," Sen. Dianne Feinstein – ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee – said that Donald Trump, Jr., should testify under oath to a Senate panel investigating Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election. Referring to the committee's Republican chair, Sen. Chuck Grassley, Feinstein said of Trump Jr., "It's Senator Grassley's intent and it's certainly my intent to have him before the committee in the open, and be able to ask some questions under oath," adding "that's likely to occur 'this fall." Bloomberg News adds that Trump Jr. "spoke for five hours behind closed doors to committee staff on Sept. 7, discussing his June 2016 meeting in New York with several Russians."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/17, Fang, 5.74M) reported that Trump Jr. "arranged the meeting, which was also attended by then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and [President] Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, after being promised dirt on his father's opponent, Hillary Clinton." Feinstein "affirmed that the committee is 'likely' to subpoena Manafort 'if he refuses to come before the committee."

WSJournal Analysis: Russia Investigations Proving A Financial Drain On Trump Aides. The Wall



Street Journal (9/17, Viswanatha, Wilber, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that some White House and Trump campaign officials ensnared in the various Russia probes are having difficulty paying their legal bills, leading them to form legal defense funds, drain personal financial accounts, and look into other options for funding the fees. As one example, ex-Trump campaign aide Michael Caputo, who earlier this summer presented testimony before a closed-door hearing of the House Intelligence Committee, told the Journal that he has paid approximately \$30,000 on legal fees. To pay the bills, adds the Journal, Caputo said he cashed out a college fund he had established for his daughters.'

WPOST: GOP ESTABLISHMENT GIRDS FOR BATTLE AGAINST BANNON IN PRIMARIES. The Washington Post (9/16, Scherer, 10.38M) reported, "If 'war' against the Republican establishment is what former White House strategist Stephen K. Bannon wants, then war is what he will get." The Post said that wealthy backers of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "and other GOP leaders have resolved to fight a protracted battle over the next year for the soul of the party in congressional primaries. 'It's shaping up to be McConnell, the Senate Leadership Fund and the Chamber against Bannon,' said Scott Reed, the senior political strategist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. 'And we will take that fight.'" The Post added, "The first battle will conclude this month in Alabama, where the incumbent senator — establishment-backed Luther Strange — is fighting uphill against former state Supreme Court judge Roy Moore" in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff in the special election to succeed now-US Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Breitbart (9/17, Lee, 2.42M) reported that during an interview last week with Charlie Rose of CBS' "60 Minutes," Bannon said that he thinks "economic nationalist candidates who challenge GOP establishment incumbents will 'rejuvenate' the Republican Party." On the topic of reports that he plans "to support primary challengers to Sens. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Bob Corker (R-TN), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Roger Wicker (R-MS), in addition to opposing...Strange" in Alabama, Rose "asked Bannon whether such challenges will 'rip apart the Republican Party." Bannon replied, "It's rejuvenating the Republican Party," and he added "that the 'Republican Party could not win national elections' when it was perceived as the establishment party for corporatists and Wall Street."

PRO-MOORE PAC SHOWS HIM LEADING STRANGE 50%-37% IN GOP RUNOFF. In a report on the Alabama special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions, Breitbart (9/17, Boyle, 2.42M) reported that a poll of 700 likely Republican primary voters, taken Sept. 7-12 by the A Time For Choosing PAC, shows ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore leading appointed Sen. Luther Strange 50%-37% in the Sept. 26 GOP primary runoff; 13% were undecided. Brietbart said that A Time For Choosing is a "pro-Moore PAC." Moore is backed by President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Breitbart added, "The poll shows that most people are aware of the fact that Trump has endorsed Strange, and they don't care and won't vote for Strange anyway. Eighty-three percent of respondents were aware that Trump backed Strange."

Politico, WSJournal Analyses: Trump Duels With Bannon In Republican Contest. Under the headline "Trump Takes On Bannon In Alabama Senate Showdown," Politico (9/16, Isenstadt, 3.6M) reported that Trump's "decision Saturday to intervene in the" contest came after "weeks of pleas from senior Republicans who fear that a loss will invite a wave of primary challenges against GOP incumbents and damage the party in the 2018 midterms." Politico said that "with polls showing the race slipping away" in Moore's favor, Trump "for weeks refused to commit to holding a campaign-style rally for Strange. On Saturday, though, Trump announced on Twitter that he would travel to the state" this coming Saturday. Politico added that Trump's "unexpected move sets the stage for a showdown between the president and his recently departed chief strategist, Steve Bannon, who is all-in for Moore."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/17, Hook, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Trump's decision to travel to Alabama in support of Strange will serve as a test of the President's influence in GOP primaries. The Journal adds that Bannon, Sarah Palin, and other Republicans have criticized Strange as beholden to the GOP establishment, which is unpopular among some party activists. The <u>Washington Post</u> (9/16, Nakamura, 10.38M) reported that in deciding to stump for Strange, Trump "is putting his political capital on the line in a big way."



TRUMP RETWEETS MOCK VIDEO OF HIM STRIKING CLINTON WITH A GOLF DRIVE. The AP (9/17, Yen) reports that President Trump on Sunday "took another swing at Hillary Clinton in the latest sign that his campaign fury hasn't faded, retweeting a mock video that shows him smacking a golf ball that – in the next frame – seemingly strikes her in the back before she stumbles and falls down while boarding a plane." The AP says the video "appears to be a doctored version of news footage from 2011 that shows" Clinton "falling after climbing the airplane stairs. The re-edited video appears to have superimposed images of a golf ball that is shown hitting Clinton. The tweet says: 'Donald Trump's amazing golf swing #CrookedHillary."

The New York Times (9/17, Caron, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Trump's "tweet stoked outrage online, generating more than 11,000 replies, many of which condemned" his "promotion of violent imagery toward Mrs. Clinton." However, the tweet "was also celebrated by Trump supporters, who admonished 'crooked Hillary' and accused Mr. Trump's critics of lacking a sense of humor." The Times, "It's not the first time one of the president's tweets has made light of violence. Last month he retweeted an image of a train running over a cartoon person with a CNN logo over their head." And earlier this summer, Trump "posted a video of him body slamming a man with a CNN logo superimposed over his head."

Democratic Rep. Swalwell Labels Trump An "Ass" For Retweeting Video. The Washington Examiner (9/17, Lim, 465K) says that in response to a report on Trump's retweet of the video, Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) tweeted, "clASSy," with an emphasis on "the word 'ass."

WPost Analysis: Trump's "Outlandish" Retweets Aimed At "Rally[ing] His Far-Right Political Base." The Washington Post (9/17, Nakamura, 10.38M) reports that this summer, Trump "has retweeted to the more than 30 million followers of his personal Twitter account" such "pieces of highbrow social media content" as the GIF of Clinton being hit by a golf ball, "[a]n animated GIF of him executing some WWE-style ground-and-pound on a CNN avatar," and "[a] cartoon meme of a 'Trump train' running over a hapless CNN reporter." The Post adds, "At a time when Trump's public approval ratings have tumbled and he is taking fire from conservatives for flirting with bipartisanship on immigration, the president's promotion of the outlandish content – created and distributed by his most ardent supporters – aims to rally his far-right political base."

Sanders Rejects Clinton Claim He Didn't Work Hard Enough To Boost Her In 2016. Sen. Bernie Sanders was asked on NBC's Meet the Press (9/17, Todd, 3.31M) about Hillary Clinton's new book, in which she criticizes the Vermont lawmaker for not encouraging more of his supporters to back her in the 2016 presidential race. Sanders replied, "I worked as hard as I could after endorsing Hillary Clinton. I went all over this country."

The New York Post (9/17, Schultz, 4.31M) reports that after "hearing Clinton's latest accusation that he didn't work hard enough to bring his supporters to her side," Sanders "shook his head in disbelief" and said, "Wow." The Post added that Sanders "scoffed at the notion and said Clinton couldn't even get all of her supporters to back [Barack] Obama" in 2008. Said Sanders, "Something like 24 percent of the people who voted for Hillary Clinton in the primaries ended up voting for John McCain." Politico (9/17, Meyer, 3.6M) reported that Clinton "has expressed frustration in interviews promoting her new book, 'What Happened,' that she 'didn't get that same respect and reciprocity' from Sanders that she showed toward Obama after losing a much more closely fought primary in 2008."

FEINSTEIN DEFENDS HER QUESTIONING OF BARRETT. The Washington Times (9/17, Richardson, 541K) reports that in an appearance on CNN's State Of The Union Sunday, Sen. Dianne Feinstein "defended...her much-criticized grilling of a judicial nominee over her Catholic faith, saying that Amy Coney Barrett had made 'questionable' statements in her writings." Feinstein "said that she considered Catholicism to be a 'great religion,'" but added, "Having said that, this is a woman who has no real trial or court experience...and therefore there is no record. She's a professor, which is fine, but all we have to look at are her writings, and in her writings, she makes some statements which are questionable, which deserve questions." The Daily Caller (9/17, Athey, 521K) says Feinstein "suggested that Barrett may be unable to separate her Catholic faith from her dedication to the law, thus disqualifying her from the



position."

Feinstein Sidesteps Question On Whether She'll Seek Reelection In 2018. The AP (9/17) reports that Feinstein "isn't publicly committing to seeking a fifth Senate term in 2018." The AP adds, "The 84-year-old – the oldest current senator – was cagey about her political future during a" Sunday appearance on CNN's "State of the Union." Responding to a question about "whether she was 'up for another six years,' Feinstein replied: 'Well, we will see, won't we."

TUR: "I FELT THE BILE IN THE BACK OF MY THROAT" ON NIGHT OF TRUMP'S ELECTION WIN. Writing at Townhall (9/17, 523K), Matt Vespa said, "There are endless compilations of the meltdowns that occurred on ABC News, NBC, News, MSNBC, and others as [it] became clearer that Hillary Clinton would not become the next president of the United States on election night 2016." In the case of "MSNBC's Katy Tur," added Vespa, "she said she felt bile in the back of her throat." Vespa highlighted a report by The Hill, which quoted Tur – a reporter for NBC and MSNBC – as writing of her feelings on election night in her new book, "Unbelievable," "The room goes wavy. My stomach churns. I can feel the bile in the back of my throat."

MSNBC Panel Laughs At Joy Reid's Quip About "Working Class White Voter." Under the headline "MSNBC Panel LAUGHS At Pictures Of 'Working Class White Voters," the Daily Caller (9/17, Caruso, 521K) reported, "An MSNBC panel on 'AM Joy' Sunday broke into laughter while talking about photos of 'working class white voters,' who were not being sufficiently asked about Trump's racism." Eric Boehlert "of liberal site ShareBlue said that the media doesn't ask about Donald Trump's racism enough," and "went on to characterize press coverage of Trump supporters as 'softball,' adding, 'not only are they not asking questions, they're whitewashing this stuff in a dangerous way." The show's host, Joy Reid, then "said, 'Getty images is probably sold out of 'working class white voter stares longingly out window.' That photo is sold out,' as the panel cracked up with laughter."

ZINKE RECOMMENDS REDUCTIONS, CHANGES TO HALF THE MONUMENTS HE REVIEWED. The Wall Street Journal (9/17, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that according to a report sent to the White House, Interior Secretary Zinke has recommended reductions or other changes to almost half of the national monuments he reviewed at the President's request. Among Zinke's recommendations are condensing the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante preserves in Utah, and reopening hundreds of thousands of square miles of protected the Pacific and Atlantic oceans to commercial fishing. The Washington Post (9/17, Eilperin, 10.38M) says that the White House "is reviewing the recommendations and has not reached a final decision on them." If the changes recommended by Zinke are enacted, they "could test the legal boundaries of what powers a president holds under the 1906 Antiquities Act."

ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS FAA ELIMINATE MORE THAN 50 AIR SAFETY RULES. The Wall Street Journal (9/17, Pasztor, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that as part of President Trump's targeting what he and aides describe as outdated and unnecessary government restrictions, the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee has delivered a report calling on the FAA to eliminate or roll back more than 50 air-safety rules. Several of the recommendations have garnered opposition from union groups, safety advocates and the families of crash victims.

KEY MCCASKILL DONOR OPERATES NURSING HOMES WITH HISTORY OF PROBLEMS. The Kansas City (MO) Star (9/17, Wise, Vockrodt, 495K) reported on Sen. Claire McCaskill's (D-MO) relationship with Rick DeStefane, "a close family friend, a regular campaign donor and a nursing home executive with a track record of serious safety problems in an industry the senator has vowed to clean up." The Star said "an investigation" it conducted found that "allegations against DeStefane range from health and safety lapses linked to gruesome deaths at his nursing homes to a federal investigation into Medicare fraud." At the same time, DeStefane "has entered into multiple financial relationships with McCaskill's husband while sending checks to underwrite McCaskill's political career." Facing reelection next year, McCaskill's "campaign has quietly refunded or given to charity contributions from politically controversial donors," but has "accepted new ones from DeStefane, who has been a consistent supporter of her campaigns over the years."



State Lawmaker Accuses McCaskill Of Throwing "Black People Under The Bus." In another report, the Kansas City (MO) Star (9/15, Lowry, Hancock, 495K) said "embattled" state Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D-MO), who "faced pressure from McCaskill and other Democratic Party leaders to resign after she said she wished for President Donald Trump's assassination in a Facebook post," on Friday blasted McCaskill "on Twitter after a St. Louis judge found former police officer Jason Stockley not guilty of first-degree murder in the 2011 shooting death of black motorist Anthony Lamar Smith." In a statement, McCaskill said while opinions will differ on the verdict, "none of us can let it detract from the goals that we all should share – safer streets, where police have the trust of the communities they serve, and a system of justice that's fair to all of our citizens." Chappelle-Nadal "quoted a Twitter user who called McCaskill's statement weak and insufficient. Chappelle-Nadal then added that McCaskill 'certainly knows how to throw Black people under the bus when it's politically expedient."

HATCH: DECISION ON 2018 RACE LARGELY DEPENDS ON HIS HEALTH. The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (9/16, Burr, 337K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) "will decide this fall whether he will seek an eighth term" in 2018 "and one of the key factors weighing on his decision, he repeatedly says, is his health. Hatch, who describes himself as 'a tough old bird' at 83, acknowledges that his age has affected him – though he says it hasn't slowed him down, and a medical report provided by his office says he's physically fit." Speaking recently with the Tribune, Hatch "said he and his wife are healthy and 'very few people' keep up the schedule he does." Said Hatch, "I've always done that. I've always been very active. I feel good. I work hard. And yeah, I feel it a lot more. I'm older but you know, nothing stops me. I keep going. I get a lot done here. I don't think anybody doubts that."

POLITICO ANALYSIS: FACING LONG ODDS, DEMOCRATS STILL HOPE TO RETAKE SENATE IN 2018. Politico (9/15, Robillard, Debenedetti, 3.6M) reported that Senate Democrats "are three seats shy of a majority and almost entirely on defense in the 2018 elections, making it all but impossible for them to retake the chamber next year." However, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and DSCC chief Sen. Chris Van Hollen "are privately refusing to rule out an improbable midterm victory, even though they must first defend 10 incumbents in states President Donald Trump won. Their insistence is primarily to keep donors invested and excited about next year's Senate races, said a handful of top party operatives," though "Democrats also want to be prepared to ride a massive wave next fall should one develop, potentially taking advantage of bloody Republican primaries to spur a red-state surprise and swing the Senate."

IN KEY CALIFORNIA HOUSE RACES TARGETED BY DEMOCRATS, PARTY FACES POTENTIAL HURDLES. The Los Angeles Times (9/17, Mai-Duc, 4.49M) reports that in their effort to retake the House in 2018, Democrats are "focusing on the 23 districts nationwide where voters chose Republicans for Congress last year but favored Democrat Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump for the presidency. Seven of those seats are in California, and Democrats must win at least a few of them to have a shot at regaining power." However, said the Times, "it might be a mistake to assume that strategy will be a panacea in California. Republican turnout in midterm elections often dwarfs Democratic turnout, and the rise of multiple viable candidates in many of the targeted districts threatens to mire them all in costly, divisive primary fights." In addition, "fighting within the California Democratic Party between left-leaning activists and the more centrist stalwarts who have traditionally had more success in swing districts could further damage Democrats' chances."

"SOURCES": EX-REP GRIMM TO CHALLENGE FELLOW REPUBLICAN DONOVAN. Citing "sources," NY1-TV New York (9/16, 80K) reported on its website that ex-Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) "will run for his old seat, less than 16 months after he was released from federal prison. Sources said Grimm will hold a rally Oct. 1 in New Dorp, where he is expected to announce" a primary challenge to Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY). NY1 added, "A federal tax fraud conviction appeared to end...Grimm's political career nearly three years ago, after he admitted to paying several workers off-the books at a Manhattan restaurant that he owned."

The <u>New York Daily News</u> (9/17, Durkin, 3.61M) reported that Grimm "spent seven months in prison after pleading guilty to helping prepare a false tax return in connection with Healthalicious, a Manhattan restaurant he owned, where he paid several workers off the books." The <u>New York Post</u> (9/16, Linge,



4.31M) reported that Grimm "has hinted at a return to politics for months – glad-handing at events in Staten Island and Brooklyn, posting photos to a campaign-style Twitter account, and lobbing verbal bombs at Donovan. 'We're not really concerned about a challenge from a felon who was one of the most liberal members of Congress. Voters won't be duped by him again,' said Jessica Proud, a Donovan campaign spokeswoman."

IN FIRST TV ADS OF GENERAL ELECTION, GUADAGNO PLEDGES TO CUT TAXES, HITS MURPHY. NJ News (9/15, Johnson, 1.21M) reported that Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R), who is battling ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) in this fall's race to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R), is out with "the first two television advertisements of the general election" contest – "one promising to cut taxes and the other attacking" her rival. The spots come as Guadagno attempts "to cut into a double-digit lead by Murphy in the polls and a 4-to-1 fundraising disadvantage." In one ad, Guadagno says "her property-tax plan will save 'working families' more than \$800 a year." In the other spot, a narrator "accuses Murphy of planning to raise multiple taxes on Jerseyans."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: TRUMP LOOMS OVER MALLIOTAKIS' BID TO OUST DE BLASIO. The Wall Street Journal (9/17, Gay, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that as she bids to oust New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) in this fall's election, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R) has sought to steer clear of discussing President Trump, who she backed in November's presidential election, and instead has focused heavily on local issues. Malliotakis told the Journal, "It's a difficult time to be a Republican in New York City. This election is not about Donald Trump. It's about traffic, trash, all the quality of life issues that have deteriorated." However, adds the Journal, de Blasio has worked to link Malliotakis to Trump, often citing her ties when vowing to combat the President's agenda.

DEVOS' \$40 MILLION YACHT DOCKED IN MILWAUKEE. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/17, Vielmetti, 628K) reports that SeaQuest, 163-foot, \$40 million yacht "owned by US Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and husband Dick DeVos Jr. is docked at Discovery World in Milwaukee."

SPICER MAKES SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT EMMYS. Politico (9/17, Griffiths, 3.6M) reports that former White House press secretary Sean Spicer made a surprise appearance at the Emmy Awards Sunday, rolling out his "'old' podium and pok[ing] fun at himself." Standing behind the podium Melissa McCarthy used during her Saturday Night Live impersonations of him, Spicer said, "This will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period. ... Both in person and around the world." As he left the stage, host Stephen Colbert said, "Melissa McCarthy, everyone."

The Washington Examiner (9/17, Quinn, 465K) says that while Spicer's appearance at the Emmys "may have elicited a laugh from those who attended the ceremony, but it did not amuse political reporters," who "took to Twitter to express their disagreement." Daniel Dale of the Toronto Star tweeted, "One funny thing is that Sean Spicer still has not acknowledged that he was lying about the size of the inauguration crowd." Politico reporter Josh Dawyer tweeted, "This town – where saying something false can translate into fame and money." CNN White House reporter Kaitlan Collins tweeted, "Is it supposed to be comical that the former White House spokesman is now tacitly admitting that he lied to the American people? ... Because, as someone who covers this White House and expects those who work in it to be truthful, I don't find it humorous." Philip Lewis, the front page editor at the Huffington Post, said, "Sean Spicer lied for MONTHSSSS and now he's up there on the #Emmys stage."

Colbert Takes Aim At Trump In Emmy Awards Monologue. Breitbart (9/17, Nolan, 2.42M) reports that in his opening monologue at Sunday's Emmy Awards, host Stephen Colbert "wasted no time in attacking President Trump." Minutes after he begin, Colbert "launched into criticism" of the President, "bashing [him] for failing to receive an Emmy for his Celebrity Apprentice TV show, implying that Trump would be tweeting furiously about the event later tonight." Said Colbert, "What a year it has been for television...the industry is booming, there are over 450 original scripted shows made this year. Of course there's no way anyone could actually watch that much TV, other than the president, who seems to have a lot of time for that sort of thing. Hello sir, thank you for joining us! Looking forward to the tweets." Colbert "took a swipe at failed presidential candidate Ted Cruz," but his "attention soon turned back to Trump."



NYTIMES ANALYSIS: BLACK, HISPANIC COLLEGE FRESHMEN MORE UNDERREPRESENTED IN 2015 THAN 1980. The New York Times (9/17, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that mid the continuing "debate and legal wrangling over whether college affirmative action efforts are too aggressive, black and Hispanic freshmen were more underrepresented at the nation's top schools in 2015 than they were in 1980," according to a Times analysis. The Times adds that "many admissions officials say that affirmative action as it is traditionally understood – taking race into consideration when assessing applications – falls short as a diversity strategy, and that further-reaching efforts are needed to recruit a student body that even comes close to reflecting the country's demographics."

ST. LOUIS PROTESTS CONTINUE. ABC World News Tonight (9/17, story 7, 1:25, Llamas, 14.63M) reported that the third night of protests in St. Louis continued following Friday's acquittal of a police officer in the 2011 killing of an African-American man, Anthony Lamar Smith. Nearly a dozen officers have been injured, 40 protesters have been arrested, and the mayor's house has been "vandalized with paint, and attacked with rocks." Tomorrow, demonstrators "plan to march and shut down streets during the morning and evening commutes."

The <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Snow, 16.61M) reported protesters also smashed the windows of two dozen businesses "in a popular suburban shopping district," shut down a shopping mall, and prompted the cancellations of concerts for U2 and Ed Sheeran.

The <u>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</u> (9/17, Gray, 831K) reports on the cleanup efforts of dozens of volunteers who gathered Sunday morning to restore University City's Delmar Loop after Saturday night's vandalism. Police say protesters "threw bricks, balloons filled with a red liquid and water bottles filled with paint thinner and gasoline." The University City Police Department "estimated that 23 businesses and five police vehicles were vandalized" along Delmar Boulevard, and about 10 people were arrested.

DOJ Concluded Insufficient Evidence For Civil Rights Violation. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (9/17, Raasch, 831K) reports the Justice Department "concluded a year ago that there was insufficient evidence to pursue a separate federal civil rights prosecution of St. Louis police Officer Jason Stockley," according to spokeswoman Lauren Ehrsam, who told the Post-Dispatch that the DOJ "withheld disclosing its conclusion while Stockley's murder trial was underway in St. Louis." In an email, Ehrsam said, "The United States Attorney's Office declined prosecution of this matter in November 2012, and notified Mr. Smith's family of their decision at that time. ... The Civil Rights Division concluded its own internal review and analysis in September 2016, and agreed that the evidence did not support a prosecution under federal criminal civil rights statutes."

DOJ HALTS REVIEW OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (9/17, Luthern, 628K) reports that a Justice Department review of the Milwaukee Police Department "has been halted with the retooling of a program once focused on improving trust between police and communities." According to the Sentinel, "the move effectively ends" the Justice Department's "collaborative reform initiative as it has existed since 2011." The program's focus "has been shifted to providing training on active shooters, dismantling gangs and other criminal investigations," and "cities such as Milwaukee, which are currently under review, will be moved into the new version of the program, a department spokeswoman said Saturday." As a result, the Sentinel adds, "those agencies will not get federal help to boost accountability or to implement reforms, as they would have under the old version of the program," and instead "will receive assistance with policing tactics to reduce crime."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE COUNTS 500TH HOMICIDE IN CITY THIS YEAR. The Chicago Tribune (9/17, Briscoe, 1.98M) reports that a man shot to death on Sunday afternoon on Chicago's West Side "became at least the 500th person to die in a homicide in Chicago in 2017, according to Tribune data." In 2016, "the city marked its 500th homicide in late August, according to Tribune data," and "so far in 2017, the number of homicides is down about 7 percent, from 538 during the same period in 2016." The Tribune "counts all homicides, including justifiable homicides, in its homicide data," while the Chicago Police Department "tallies only what are defined as murders for the purpose of reporting numbers to the FBI." The Tribune adds that "as of midnight Saturday, Chicago police had recorded 486 murders in the city so



far this year, versus 521 for the same period in 2016."

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSIDERS RENAMING THREE SCHOOLS NAMED AFTER FOUNDING FATHERS. The <u>Daily Caller</u> (9/17, 521K) reports that "schools named after three of America's Founding Fathers," Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, are included on a list of schools that the Dallas Independent School District is considering renaming. The district "has already recommended renaming four schools named after Confederate generals." According to the Dallas Morning News, the district "is exploring whether to rename the schools on the list because of their namesake's ties to slavery or the Confederacy."

TRUCK HITS CONFEDERATE STATUE AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI. The <u>Jackson (MS) Clarion Ledger</u> (9/17, Apel, 255K) reports a pickup truck on Saturday night struck the Confederate statue that overlooks the entrance to the area called "the Circle" on University of Mississippi's campus. Police "said they suspect the driver was intoxicated" and that the statue incurred "some damage." The Ledger adds, "At this point it's not clear if the statue was actually the driver's target or if it was hit accidentally."

JOHN JAY PROFESSOR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AFTER TWEETING ABOUT "FUTURE DEAD COPS." Townhall (9/17, O'Brien, 523K) reports that Michael Isaacson, an economics professor at Manhattan's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, "has been placed on administrative leave for a tweet he sent on August 23," in which "he appeared to suggest that violence against cops was simply a fact of life. 'Some of y'all might think it sucks being an anti-fascist teaching at John Jay College but I think it's a privilege to teach future dead cops,' he wrote at the time." According to Townhall, the tweet from Isaacson, "who is also a leader of the Antifa movement," was seen by police union officials, "followed by school officials," and John Jay President Karol Mason "responded swiftly, knowing exactly what to do," saying, "Out of concern for the safety of our students, faculty and staff, we are immediately placing the adjunct on administrative leave as we continue to review this matter."

POLICE SAY RECENT LOUISIANA SHOOTINGS WERE RACIALLY MOTIVATED. ABC World News Tonight (9/17, story 4, 1:20, Llamas, 14.63M) reported that authorities in Baton Rouge now say there is a "strong possibility" that the recent murders of two African-American men – Bruce Coefield and Donald Smart, who were fatally shot in Baton Rouge this past Tuesday and Thursday – were "racially motivated." Police also "stress they're looking into other motives."

GOVERNMENT CONTROLS POSE CHALLENGES FOR FACEBOOK, OTHER ONLINE COMPANIES. In a report that largely focuses on Facebook, the New York Times (9/17, Mozur, Scott, Isaac, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that "in recent years, events as varied as the Arab Spring, elections in France and confusion in Indonesia over the religion of the country's president have awakened governments to how they have lost some control over online speech, commerce and politics on their home turf. Even in the" US, "tech giants are facing heightened scrutiny from the government." As countries attempt "grab back power online, a clash is brewing between governments and companies. Some of the biggest companies in the world – Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Alibaba among them – are finding they need to play by an entirely new set of rules on the once-anarchic internet."

SAMUELSON: REPORT SHOWS MIDDLE CLASS RISING AGAIN, BUT OFFERS A FEW SOBERING TAKEAWAYS. In his Washington Post (9/17, 10.38M) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that the Census Bureau's latest report on "Income and Poverty in the United States" offers "mostly good" news in that it shows the income of the median household "rose to a record \$59,039" – reinforcing recent Gallup polls showing two-thirds of Americans again consider themselves middle class. The report also presents several national problems, however: men's full-time median wages "have stagnated," low-income households have not experienced major gains, and almost three-quarters of the increase in poverty since 1990 "reflects increases in Hispanic poverty."

ISAAC, KOVACEVICH: FED SHOULD FORGET INFLATION TARGET AND RAISE INTEREST RATES. In a Wall Street Journal (9/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, former FDIC Chairman William M. Isaac and former Wells Fargo CEO Richard M. Kovacevich write that the Federal Reserve should set aside concerns that inflation is too low and raise interest rates at this week's Federal Open



Market Committee meeting. They argue that the Fed's two percent inflation target is unrealistic in today's economy and that higher interest rates would spur economic growth.

PROFESSORS: DEAL WITH ANTIFA BY DESIGNATING IT A GANG. In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (9/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), David Pyrooz, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and James Densley, an associate professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University, MN, argue that Antifa meets the definition of a gang, a label that would offer a range of possibilities for countering the group, and for right-wing groups. According to Pyrooz and Densley, gangs may be defined as groups with a collective identity that a durable over time and that engage in illegal activity. Antifa, in their view, meets that criteria by demonstrating a propensity for violence. If Antifa meets the gang definition, the authors contends, law enforcement officials could use such tools as social-network analysis, focused deterrence strategies, and civil injunctions to control the behavior of its members.

WSJOURNAL: CONGRESS SHOULD CURB ASSET-FORFEITURE PROGRAM. The Wall Street Journal (9/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions recently sparked bipartisan ire with the revival of a civil asset-forfeiture program that had been restricted by former Attorney General Eric Holder. According to the Journal, a bipartisan group last week countered Sessions' move with a series of amendments to the annual appropriations package that is moving through the House. The Journal argues that the practice amounts to property being taken from individuals without due process or the determination of criminal culpability, and that it invites abuse. The House amendments would curtail the power of law enforcement officials under the program, and the Journal urges Congress to pass a separate law making these restrictions permanent, calling such a result a victory for property rights and due process.

WSJOURNAL: SECOND CIRCUIT SHOULD CLEAR UP INSIDER TRADING UNCERTAINTY. The Wall Street Journal (9/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes that the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in 2014 tried to create a limiting principle for insider trading, the definition of which has been legally murky. According to the Journal, the court's effort was mitigated last month by a three-judge panel of the court, and this conflict – centering on whether "friendship" between figures in an alleged insider-trading scheme satisfies the definition of "personal benefit" under the statute – calls for a resolution by the entire 2nd Circuit.

WSJOURNAL: IN NOD TO UAW, CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATS TARGETING TESLA. In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (9/17, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) writes that California Democratic lawmakers passed legislation Friday requiring manufacturers participating in an electric car rebate program to receive permission from the state labor secretary to verify they are "fair and responsible in their treatment of workers" – a measure backed by the United Automobile Workers and that directly impacts Tesla. The Journal observes the state's Democrats showed that their loyalty to organized labor takes priority over electric cars and green subsidies.

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 5 Oct 2017 13:15:38 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR THURSDAY, OCT.

5, 2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 5, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

ACTING HHS SECRETARY TRAINED, PRACTICED IN WACO, TEXAS. The Waco (TX) Tribune-Herald (10/4, Copeland, 170K) reports that Dr. Don Wright, who was appointed by President Trump as Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, finished his medical training "in family medicine at Waco's Family Health Center and Family Medicine Residency Program in 1985" and practiced clinical medicine for 17 years in Waco at Concentra Occupational Health & Medical Center and the Baylor University Student Health Center. Wright first switched to health policy work in 2003 under President George W. Bush and has worked at HHS for ten years.

FOUR HOUSTON HOSPITALS TO PAY \$8.6 MILLION TO SETTLE HEALTHCARE FRAUD CASE INVOLVING KICKBACKS FROM AMBULANCE COMPANIES. The Houston Chronicle (10/4, Banks, 1.97M) reports four Houston hospitals have agreed to pay \$8.6 million to settle a healthcare fraud case with the US Department of Justice. The hospitals allegedly "took kickbacks from multiple ambulance companies so they could tap into the hospitals' lucrative Medicare and Medicaid transport referrals of patients." The four hospitals are all affiliated with the Hospital Corporation of America in Nashville. Gregory Demske, chief counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General, said, "This settlement emphasizes that both sides of any arrangement where remuneration is paid in exchange for healthcare referrals are responsible for their improper actions – even entities that do not actually bill Medicare or Medicaid for the services."

Modern Healthcare (10/4, Teichert, Subscription Publication, 238K) also covers the story.

UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS SUING MORE THAN A DOZEN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES FOR ALLEGED ROLE IN OPIOID ADDICTION. The <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (10/4, Rice, 984K) reports that Upshur County in Texas "is suing more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies for their alleged role in opioid addiction." The lawsuit, which was announced Oct. 4, was "filed Sept. 29 in the US District Court in Marshall." Named in the suit are "Purdue Pharma, Johnson and Johnson, Teva Pharmaceutical, Abbott Laboratories, Allergan, Pfizer, and McKesson as defendants, among others." The lawsuit contends, in the News' words, that these "companies used deceptive marketing practices to tout the benefits of opioids for chronic pain, including using third parties who were seemingly independent but were actually funded by the companies." The <u>Houston Chronicle</u> (10/4, Downen, 1.97M) also covers the story.

OKLAHOMANS' HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS WATCHING FOR CONGRESS TO FUND CHIP, HEALTH CENTERS. The Oklahoman (10/4, Wingerter, 443K) reports the House Commerce and Energy Committee is scheduled to take up bills Wednesday that "would extend funding for federally qualified health centers and the Children's Health Insurance Program," which expired Saturday. Brent Wilborn, director of public policy at the Oklahoma Primary Care Association, "said most community health centers have enough funding to continue operating through the end of December," but budget uncertainty can make planning challenging. "Oklahoma's 20 federally qualified health centers treated about 200,000 people last year," and Wilborn expects lawmakers to extend the funding.



NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

- + House Panel Members At Odds Over How To Pay For CHIP Funding.
- + States Worried Congress May Not Renew CHIP Funding In Time To Avert Budget Shortfalls.
- + Democrats Warn Against \$473 Billion Cut To Medicare In Senate Budget Proposal.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + Senate Confirms Eric Hargan As Deputy HHS Secretary.
- + Analysis: Trump Administration May Be Slowing Efforts To Cut Healthcare Costs.
- + House Dems Want Evidence Price Has Repaid Taxpayers For Use Of Private Jets.
- + Cummings Seeks Details About Conway's Trips With Price.
- + Editorial: Trump's Cabinet Is Abusing The System.
- + Politico Reporters Provide Details About How They Uncovered Information Regarding Price's Use Of Private Jets.
- + Op-Ed Criticizes GOP For "Hypocrisy" On Abortion, Attempts To Defund Planned Parenthood.
- + More Tension In Trump Administration Publicized Following Price's Resignation.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Former Obama Administration Officials Launch Effort To Increase ACA Enrollment.
- + Cigna To Cease Covering OxyContin In Favor Of Extended-Release Equivalent.
- + Federal Officials, Industry Leaders Concerned About Potential Shortages Of Drugs, Medical Devices Due To Devastation In Puerto Rico.
- + "Right To Try" Effort Faces Obstacles From Companies, Gottlieb Says.
- + FDA Preparing Regulatory Plan For IBM's Watson Supercomputer.
- + Puerto Rico Disaster Hits Saline Supply.
- + FDA Says EPA Should Regulate Genetically Modified Mosquitoes.
- + Opinion: Questions Remain About Whether FDA's Tobacco Strategy Is Ethical.
- + Audit Finds FDA Food Safety Oversight Should Be Improved.
- + Lance Bass Criticizes FDA's Continued Ban On Blood Donations From MSM.
- + Op-Ed: NIH, Scientific Bodies Lead "Curiosity-Driven" Innovation Vital To Improving Health.
- + CDC Deactivates Emergency Response Center For Zika Virus.
- + Former Surgeon General Says There Is A "Loneliness Epidemic" In The US.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + Schumer Seeks To Add ACA Stabilization Provisions To CHIP Reauthorization Bill.
- + Despite Uncertainty Caused By Trump Administration Threats, ACA Enrollment Is Scheduled To Begin On November 1.
- + GOP Threats To Repeal ACA Preventing Some Consumers From Enrolling In Plans For Next Year.
- + House Panel Advances Efforts To Repeal IPAB.
- + ACA Premiums For Next Year Expected To Increase By Double Digits In Many States.
- + Massachusetts Health Connector Warns Of Premium Increases For 2018.
- + Analysis: Access To Health Services Increasingly Challenging For Connecticut's Rural Residents.
- + Sen. Alexander Supports Funding CSRs For 2 Years In ACA Stabilization Bill.
- + California Enacts Two Laws To Help Consumers In ACA Marketplace.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + Walgreens Boots Alliance To Expand Number Of Safe Medication Disposal Kiosks To 1.500 Stores.
- + Two Major US Manufacturers Of Opioids Likely To Be Named In Civil Suits By New Jersey AG, Sources Say.
- + Former Heroin Addict Calls Upon 12-Step Programs To Update Their Abstinence-Based Approach.



HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

- + Med-Fast Pharmacy Agrees To Pay \$2.7 Million To Settle Federal Healthcare Fraud Claims.
- + Mississippi Ophthalmologist Arrested On 17 Counts Of Medicaid Fraud.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Federal Employees' Health Insurance Premiums Set To Increase By 6.1 Percent.
- + Planned Parenthood Asks Eighth Circuit To Stay Its Ruling Upholding Arkansas State Abortion Pill Law.
- + Analysis: Many Women Support Late-Term Abortion Ban, Polls Say.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:

+ \$6.5 Million Federal Grant Awarded To Support Alabama Early Education Program.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

+ FDA Accuses Los Angeles Seafood Distributor Of Lax Controls.

MEDICARE:

+ Rising Medicare Part B Costs May Consume Cost-Of-Living Increases In Social Security Checks.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Senate Committee "Easily" Approves CHIP Funding Bill.
- + Opinion: Republicans Are Exploiting Their Own Neglect To Bargain For Cuts In CHIP Renewal Bill.
- + Editorial: No Excuse For Congress Not To Pass Renewal Of CHIP.
- + In The Wake Of Hurricane Maria, Lawmakers In Congress Push For More Medicaid Funding For Puerto Rico.
- + State Lawmaker Asks Tennessee Governor To Expand Medicaid Eligibility.
- + Pennsylvania Court Rules Against UnitedHealthcare In Protest Of Medicaid Contract Awards.
- + New Hampshire Commission Considers Managed Care Medicaid System.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + Judge To Decide Whether Head Of Michigan Health Department Will Go To Trial For Death During Flint Water Crisis.
- + Many Puerto Ricans Facing Health Problems After Hurricane.
- + Scarcity-Marked Aftermath Of Hurricane Maria Taking Mental Health Toll On Puerto Rico.
- + Analysis Considers Role That Federal Gun Violence Research Funding Ban Has Had On Gun Control Debate.
- + Following Las Vegas Shooting, Emergency Response Expert Call Attention To Number Of Trauma Centers, Capacity.
- + Las Vegas Shootings Expected To Add To Woes Of Nevada's Overstretched Mental Healthcare System.
- + Study Shows 78,000 Firearm Injuries Each Year Cost Medical System \$46 Billion In Lost Work, Medical Care.
- + Column: The Case For Repealing The Second Amendment.
- + Older Adults May Be More Likely To Disclose Suicide Intent, Research Suggests.
- + Michigan Woman Sentenced To Seven Days In Jail For Refusing To Continue Child's Vaccinations.
- + Many Employers Pushing For Expansion Of Telemedicine.
- + Physicians Discover Woman Suspected Of Having Lymphoma Was Actually Having A Reaction To An Old Tattoo.
- + <u>Injections Of Antibodies From Zika-Infected Humans May Prevent Zika Infection In Others, Monkey Study Suggests.</u>
- + FDA Approves Generic Version Of Multiple Sclerosis Drug.
- + DNA-Based Zika Vaccine Shows Promising Results In Early Stage Human Trial.
- + Experimental Drug Shows Greater Improvements In Muscle And Lung Function For People With Pompe Disease Than Standard Of Care, Clinical Trial Shows.
- + States In Deep South, Midwest Have Higher Smoking Rate Than National Average, Report Concludes.
- + Pennsylvania Governor Expected To Sign Unanimously-Approved "Right To Try" Bill.
- + Fewer Patients Received Cholesterol Medication During First Year Product Was Marketed Due To Lack



Of Insurance Approval, Higher Copays, Study Finds.

- + California Bill Would Force Drug Companies To Present Justification For Price Increases.
- + Silicon Valley Venture Investors Lead \$12 Million Seed Funding For "Stealth" Biosciences Startup.
- + Experimental Drug That Mutes Defective Genes Raises Hopes.
- + Experimental Gene Therapy Helps Boys With Adrenoleukodystrophy.
- + Opinion: California Immunization Exemptions Ban Should Be Repealed.
- + Immigrants May Get More Intensive Care At End Of Life, Study Suggests.
- + San Diego Paramedics Temporarily Authorized To Vaccinate At Risk Patients Against Hepatitis A Amid Outbreak.
- + San Diego To Open Camp For Homeless Following Hepatitis Outbreak.
- + Pennsylvania Auditor Praises Allegheny County's Predictive Family Screening Tool.
- + Watching Sports Stresses Heart Almost As Much As Exercise, Small Study Suggests.

STEM CELL NEWS:

+ California Passes Law Requiring Clinics To Disclose When Stem Cell Treatments Are Not FDA-Approved.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Trump Lauds Bravery Of First Responders And Victims In Las Vegas.
- + Administration Appears To Walk Back Trump Comments On Puerto Rico's Debt.
- + Puerto Rico's Death Toll More Than Doubles To 34.
- + White House Seeks \$29 Billion For Hurricane Aid.
- + Reporter Describes Recovery Efforts On St Thomas.
- + Reuters: "Sources" Say Trump Dossier Now Part Of Mueller's Investigation.
- + Pence: US Will Lead In Space Again.
- + Administration To Propose Repealing Clean Power Plan.
- + Administration Ordered To Enforce Obama-Era Restrictions On Methane Emissions.
- + Administration Declines To List 25 Species As Endangered.
- + Kushner, Ivanka Trump Fined For Filing Financial Reports Late.
- + Obama's FHFA Director Used Federal Employees As Chauffeurs, Personal Travel Assistants.
- + Trump Judicial Nominee Asked About Displaying Confederate Portrait In His Chambers.
- + Mashable: White House Social Media Director May Be Author Of Some Of Trump's Tweets.
- + Moore Meets With Bannon, Alabama House Members During Washington Visit.
- + Grimm Reportedly Wins Bannon's Backing In Primary Challenge To Donovan.
- + WPost-Schar Scholl Poll: Democrat Northam Leads Gillespie 53%-40%.
- + Congressional Hispanic Caucus In No Hurry To Admit GOP Rep. Curbelo.
- + Menendez Trial: Prosecution Focuses On Melgen Donations Made To Super PAC.
- + Embroiled In Controversy, GOP Rep. Murphy To Retire.
- + Poll Shows Maryland Gov. Hogan Comfortably Leading Democratic Challengers.
- + UM Reaches Settlement In FOIA Suit Over Schlissel Emails On Trump.
- + Columnist: Trump Will Be Reelected "If The Left Keeps Calling Him A Racist."
- + Senators Unveil Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Legislation.
- + Judge Accepts Arpaio Pardon.
- + Manhattan DA Returns Trump Attorney's Donation After Questions About Ending Probe.
- + After Charlottesville, ACLU Braces For Next Alt-Right Case.
- + WSJournal Analysis: Gorsuch's Questions Suggest Support For Protections For Criminal Defendants.
- + Supreme Court Justices Wrestle With DC Bachelor Party Case.
- + Warren Accuses Equifax Of Profiting From Breach.
- + Samuelson: Survey Offers Mixed Image Of American Consumers' Resilience.
- + San Jose Mayor: Subsidies For Favored Corporations Are Bad Deal For Taxpayers.

Leading the News:

HOUSE PANEL MEMBERS AT ODDS OVER HOW TO PAY FOR CHIP FUNDING. The AP (10/4, Fram) reports that on Wednesday, a "divided" House Energy and Commerce Committee disagreed "over how to



pay for an extension of" the Children's Health Insurance Program, "suggesting that congressional approval will take time despite growing pressure on lawmakers to act." CHIP, which covers about 8.9 million children, has bipartisan support. The article says Democratic members of the panel opposed GOP cuts which "include trimming a public health fund established under" the ACA, "and making it harder for people buying individual health coverage to avoid paying premiums." In addition, GOP lawmakers want to increase Medicare premiums for seniors who earn more than \$500,000 annually.

The New York Times (10/4, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that while similar legislation "sailed through a Senate committee on Wednesday," the House committee split over "partisan conflict" after Democrats voiced fears that Republicans would use Medicare and ACA funding to offset CHIP costs.

The Hill (10/4, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports House Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) observed, "It's not looking good" for negotiations on the House bill. The article says debate could grow more complex if Republicans "seek to link the CHIP bill to the repeal of" the Independent Payment Advisory Board, "a controversial board in ObamaCare that is designed to control Medicare costs."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, King, 465K) reports that Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) objected to the cuts, saying, "Here we are with a partisan bill that asks us to pay for coverage of children on the backs of seniors and the most vulnerable among us."

A separate piece in the Washington Examiner (10/4, King, 465K) also reports.

AARP Warns Against Plan To Raise Medicare Premiums For Some Seniors In Order To Fund CHIP. The Hill (10/4, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that "AARP is criticizing a provision of a bill to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program that would charge higher Medicare premiums to wealthy seniors." In a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Joyce Rogers, the AARP senior vice president of government affairs, wrote, "Not only is it wrong to continue to ask Medicare beneficiaries to shoulder the burden for non-Medicare expenditures, but it will make it harder to finance actual improvements and address long-term challenges in the Medicare program."

STATES WORRIED CONGRESS MAY NOT RENEW CHIP FUNDING IN TIME TO AVERT BUDGET SHORTFALLS. The Wall Street Journal (10/4, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that increasingly, states are worried Congress will not reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program before they are compelled to end coverage for needy children. The article says a House panel and a Senate panel approved CHIP measures on Wednesday, but House GOP lawmakers included several provisions which seek to cut ACA funding, and some analysts are concerned this could make it difficult to negotiate with Democrats. Meanwhile, some states could pay the price if there is conflict, given that a poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 10 states could deplete their CHIP funding by December.

DEMOCRATS WARN AGAINST \$473 BILLION CUT TO MEDICARE IN SENATE BUDGET PROPOSAL. Politico (10/4, Ferris, 3.6M) reports that GOP senators "are proposing to slash Medicare spending by \$473 billion over a decade, once again diverging from one of President Donald Trump's key campaign promises," Democrats on the Senate Budget Committee said in Politico's words. The Democrats, led by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), revealed that figure in a new analysis. The article says while "the cuts would occur under the fiscal 2018 budget resolution Senate Republicans unveiled last week, the details are not outlined in any public documents the GOP has released so far." Under the plan, \$5.071 trillion would be cut from domestic programs over 10 years, but there is no information about which programs will be impacted, although Democrats contend Medicaid could lose about \$1 trillion, and the NIH about \$37 billion.

The Hill (10/4, Weixel, Ellis, 1.68M) reports that Democrats on the committee also alleged these "cuts would be used to pay 'for trillions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthiest people and most profitable



corporations." Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) stated, "The American people are going to hate this plan, because they don't want tax cuts for the rich and they don't want cuts for Medicaid and Medicare." Top Democrats in the House and Senate also wrote to Trump, saying, "Medicare and Medicaid should not be used to finance new tax breaks for the wealthy, and we request that you pledge to veto any legislation that includes these cuts."

Also covering the story are <u>Vox</u> (10/4, Stein, 1.54M), the <u>Washington Times</u> (10/4, Sherfinski, 541K) and the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, Weaver, 465K).

AARP Warns Against Proposed Cuts To Medicare, Medicaid. The Hill (10/4, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that AARP is urging the House "to reject potential cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps in the current budget resolution." On Wednesday, AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins wrote to lawmakers, saying, "We urge you not to include attempts to cut Medicare benefits or increase beneficiary costs in the upcoming budget proposal." The group also warned that attempts "to reduce or cap Medicaid funding could endanger the health, safety, and care of millions of individuals who depend on the essential services provided through this program."

The Secretary in the News:

SENATE CONFIRMS ERIC HARGAN AS DEPUTY HHS SECRETARY. The Hill (10/4, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, the Senate confirmed Eric Hargan as Deputy HHS Secretary by a vote of 57-38 which was "largely along party lines." The article says seven Democratic senators and Sen. Angus King (I-ME) joined Republicans in voting for Hargan. The piece adds that Hargan's confirmation comes on the heels of former HHS Secretary Tom Price's resignation last week, which means President Trump must find a replacement.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, Leonard, 465K) reports that Hargan previously "worked at HHS from 2003 to 2007 under former President George W. Bush and was part of Trump's transition team." Prior to "his confirmation, he was a lawyer at the Chicago-based firm Greenberg Traurig, focusing on health law." During his confirmation hearing, Hargan said about the position, "The challenges are so great, whether in public health, in healthcare finance, in facilitating innovation in healthcare and in the administration of human services, that I cannot imagine not wanting to participate, and to lend to the government both my past experience at HHS, as well as the fruit of my years of work in the healthcare sector since then, to help as much as I can."

ANALYSIS: TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MAY BE SLOWING EFFORTS TO CUT HEALTHCARE COSTS. Bloomberg News (10/5, Tozzi, 4.52M) reports that the Trump Administration has taken steps to slow efforts aimed at cutting healthcare costs. The article examines an Innovation Center program which capped Medicare payments for joint surgeries and follow-up care which "aimed to shave Medicare's joint replacement costs by 3 percent," but in August, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that the payment arrangement would be voluntary instead of mandatory. Former HHS Secretary Tom Price objected to mandatory cap programs. The piece discusses the trend away from "fee for services" payments and concludes, "New payment models may allow the most efficient health-care providers to boost their profits while reducing overall costs."

HOUSE DEMS WANT EVIDENCE PRICE HAS REPAID TAXPAYERS FOR USE OF PRIVATE JETS. The AP (10/4) reports House Democrats want the Trump Administration to provide evidence that former HHS Secretary Tom Price "wrote a check to reimburse taxpayers for his government-paid travel on private charters." Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), who is the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wrote to HHS and the Treasury Department asking for proof of Price's payment.

On its website, <u>CNN</u> (10/4, Alesci, 33.59M) reports that Cummings wrote to HHS Acting Secretary Don Wright and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, "asking the departments for a copy of the check or 'other form of payment' by October 6." This "request comes on the heels of the committee's bipartisan effort to



learn more about the administration's use of non-commercial flights at taxpayer expense." The article adds that Price resigned last Friday after promising to repay about \$52,000 for his use of private jets for official business.

CBS News (10/4, Watson, 4.42M) and Fierce Healthcare (10/4, MacDonald, 146K) also cover the story.

CUMMINGS SEEKS DETAILS ABOUT CONWAY'S TRIPS WITH PRICE. The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/4, Rein, 10.38M) reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, "asked the White House for details about private charter jet trips that counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway took with" former HHS Secretary Tom Price. In the letter, Cummings "asked Conway to provide documentation of all noncommercial flights she has taken, including where they left from and landed, a list of passengers and the full cost of each flight, in addition to her seat."

<u>Politico</u> (10/4, Pradhan, 3.6M) reports that Conway accompanied Price on several trips "that were related to the administration's efforts to fight the opioid epidemic, a POLITICO investigation found." These trips were made on private jets.

On its website, <u>ABC News</u> (10/4, Siegel, 2.83M) reports that Cummings stated in the letter, "Despite the fact that you joined Secretary Price on several of these flights, you have not made any similar public statements indicating whether your own actions were appropriate, whether you will continue to take such flights at taxpayer expense in the future, or whether you plan to personally repay the taxpayers for the cost of your seats on these flights."

Also covering the story are <u>The Hill</u> (10/4, Weixel, 1.68M), <u>Newsweek</u> (10/4, Kutner, 991K), and the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, Quinn, 465K).

EDITORIAL: TRUMP'S CABINET IS ABUSING THE SYSTEM. The Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (10/5, 22K) editorializes that former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price should have known "how to act when it comes to taxpayer dollars," given his prior experience as a congressman and state senator from Georgia. The Gazette-Mail adds, "His largesse at taxpayer expense led to his resignation late Friday." The piece also lists "misuse of taxpayer dollars" from Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt, and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke arising from use of chartered private flights and military planes.

POLITICO REPORTERS PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT HOW THEY UNCOVERED INFORMATION REGARDING PRICE'S USE OF PRIVATE JETS. Dan Diamond and Rachana Pradhan write in a Politico Magazine (10/4, 3.55M) piece about how they uncovered evidence about former HHS Secretary Tom Price's use of private jets for official business. They say the story resulted from "a casual conversation with a source back in May." The information simply referred to Price's use of private jets, but there were no details. Based on that, they "embarked on a months-long effort to win the trust of sources, both in and outside of HHS, who were in a position to know about the secretary's travel." Diamond and Pradhan say reconstructing Price's travel schedule was difficult because during the first months of his tenure, he did not publicize that information. But eventually, they succeeded, and the task became less onerous in July and August when HHS disseminated more of that information.

OP-ED CRITICIZES GOP FOR "HYPOCRISY" ON ABORTION, ATTEMPTS TO DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD. Gail Collins writes in a New York Times (10/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) op-ed about hypocrisy in Congress, citing cases of GOP lawmakers who publicly opposed abortion, but who asked their significant others to undergo the procedure. She says "the most effective way to fight against late-term abortions would obviously be programs like teen pregnancy prevention," providing low-income women with the ability to afford contraceptives, and enabling "easy access to clinics like Planned Parenthood that offer both health services and counseling on effective birth control." Collins adds that the Trump Administration is attempting to defund such programs, and when former HHS Secretary Tom Price "wasn't busy flying around in private planes, he was waging war on federal services that are targeted at stopping unwanted pregnancies."



MORE TENSION IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUBLICIZED FOLLOWING PRICE'S RESIGNATION.

The New York Times (10/4, Baker, Haberman, Thrush, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that on Wednesday, "tension within President Trump's national security team spilled into public view...as Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson took the extraordinary step of calling a news conference to affirm his support for Mr. Trump, despite what associates describe as his deep frustration with the president and talk of resignation." The article says this "news conference was the latest rupture in an administration consumed by palace intrigue from the start." Indeed, less than a week ago, HHS Secretary Tom Price was ousted "after being publicly scolded by Mr. Trump for using chartered flights."

HHS in the News:

FORMER OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS LAUNCH EFFORT TO INCREASE ACA

ENROLLMENT. In continuing coverage, the AP (10/4, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that former Obama Administration officials are embarking on "a private campaign to encourage people to sign up for coverage next year under the Affordable Care Act." They "said their campaign, set to begin Wednesday, will focus on young adults and try to encourage people to sign up for government-backed private health insurance because of subsidies available to cushion the impact of rising premiums." Lori Lodes and Joshua Peck, "who directed outreach and sign-up efforts during much of former President Barack Obama's second term," are spearheading this initiative. Former Acting CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt, activist-actors Alyssa Milano and Bradley Whitford, social commentator Van Jones, and insurance industry veteran Mario Molina are also joining the effort.

On its website, <u>NBC News</u> (10/4, Sarlin, 3.46M) reports, "As evidence mounts that the Trump administration is undermining next month's Obamacare enrollment period, veterans of the previous administration are planning a parallel effort to sign people up for health insurance." The article says the group formed by Lodes and Peck is called Get America Covered. Lodes told NBC News, "The thing we are most focused on is people understanding the very basic facts. ... There's a deadline, you have to sign up by December 15, and coverage is more affordable than you think."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/4, Howell, 541K) reports that the campaign "to help people understand coverage options and signup deadlines under Obamacare" was launched on Wednesday. The organizers say they must, in the Times' words, "fill the void left by a Trump administration that is hostile to" the ACA, and which significantly cut funding for outreach efforts.

Also covering the story are the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, King, 465K), <u>Fierce Healthcare</u> (10/4, Small, 146K) and the <u>Daily Caller</u> (10/4, 521K).

CIGNA TO CEASE COVERING OXYCONTIN IN FAVOR OF EXTENDED-RELEASE EQUIVALENT.

Reuters (10/4, Beasley) reports health insurer Cigna Corp recently announced it will no longer cover Purdue Pharma's OxyContin effective January 1. It "will instead cover an equivalent with a formulation less vulnerable to abuse, the company said on Wednesday." Cigna will now operate a "value-based contract" with Collegium Pharmaceutical for Xtampza ER, an extended-release equivalent "that cannot be made more fast-acting through cutting or crushing." The CDC says opioids were linked to more than 33,000 deaths in 2015.

CNBC (10/4, Mangan, 3.48M) reports Cigna said the contract will place a financial penalty on Collegium if its treatment is used too often by Cigna beneficiaries. The article says, "OxyContin is the only opioid-based prescription painkiller that Cigna is removing in 2018 as 'a preferred option' from its formulary." Cigna also said it will review individual prescriptions for OxyContin considered to be "medically necessary."

STAT (10/4, Facher, 43K) reports Robert Josephson, Purdue's executive director for communications, said in an email that the company "believe[s] that patients should have access to FDA-approved products with abuse deterrent properties. ... Unfortunately, Cigna's decision limits the tools prescribers can use to



help address the opioid crisis." STAT adds that Purdue CEO Craig Landau joined NIH Director Francis Collins "at a mid-September event in Trenton, N.J., in announcing a public-private partnership between the NIH and drug manufacturers."

The Washington Examiner (10/4, Leonard, 465K) also reports.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS, INDUSTRY LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL SHORTAGES OF DRUGS, MEDICAL DEVICES DUE TO DEVASTATION IN PUERTO RICO. On its front page, the New York Times (10/4, A1, Thomas, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports federal officials, as well as manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, are concerned about potential shortages following the devastation caused by a hurricane to Puerto Rico, which is a major manufacturer of both types of products. The Times reports that there are over 80 plants in Puerto Rico that manufacture pharmaceuticals or medical devices, but that manufacturers are facing many problems, including unreliable electricity, transportation issues, and so on. On Tuesday, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency met with industry leaders to discuss the problems. The article also notes that earlier in the week, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told Congress, "Some of these products are critical to Americans. A loss of access could have significant public health consequences."

"RIGHT TO TRY" EFFORT FACES OBSTACLES FROM COMPANIES, GOTTLIEB SAYS. Bloomberg News (10/4, Cortez, 4.52M) reports 30-year-old US Navy veteran Matt Bellina, diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in 2012, is leading an initiative to pass a "Right to Try" bill aimed at easing access to experimental treatments for terminally ill patients. The article says that although "Right to Try" seems to be "a no-brainer," with vocal support coming from the Senate and the White House, at a hearing at the House on Tuesday FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said such legislation should be limited to patients expected to die within a few months, adding, "The biggest obstacle to offering drugs through expanded access is supply constraints." Some critics say that Right to Try legislation would not augment the existing "compassionate use" system because the FDA and legislators are not able to require companies to make experimental treatments available.

FDA PREPARING REGULATORY PLAN FOR IBM'S WATSON SUPERCOMPUTER. In a greater than 2,000-word piece, <u>STAT</u> (10/4, Ross, Swetlitz, 43K) reports IBM's Watson "supercomputer," which it "trumpets...as the next big thing in medicine," could face new regulatory scrutiny from the FDA as the agency moves to clarify "which software products will be exempt under" the 21st Century Cures Act. Dr. Reshma Ramachandran, co-chair of the FDA task force at the National Physicians Alliance, said regulators understand "there really needs to be that third-party check and transparency" for artificial intelligence "to make sure there's no harm done." FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb "has signaled a desire to streamline regulation of digital health technologies" and "has suggested the FDA may use a certification process to allow companies to commercialize products without pre-market approval, or through a very limited review process."

PUERTO RICO DISASTER HITS SALINE SUPPLY. Modern Healthcare (10/4, Kacik, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that in Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria "has knocked out the manufacturing capacity for sodium chloride and dextrose at one of two major suppliers, and that could send a ripple effect throughout the U.S. healthcare industry." Baxter International is the biggest supplier of intravenous saline and says its Puerto Rico manufacturing facility has lost "multiple production days." Cleveland Clinic Chief Pharmacy Officer Scott Knoer expects the "cascade effect" to have "major implications for hospitals everywhere" as other suppliers are exhausted. Beyond saline, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in a statement that Puerto Rico is home to dozens of facilities producing cancer drugs, immunosuppressants, and devices for diabetic patients.

FDA SAYS EPA SHOULD REGULATE GENETICALLY MODIFIED MOSQUITOES. The $\underline{\mathsf{AP}}$ (10/4) reports the Food and Drug Administration said that the EPA should regulate genetically modified mosquitoes, because they are not "drugs." New federal guidelines say that the EPA will regulate the mosquitoes, which are engineered by Oxitec, from now on.



OPINION: QUESTIONS REMAIN ABOUT WHETHER FDA'S TOBACCO STRATEGY IS ETHICAL. In an opinion piece for The Hill (10/4, 1.68M), Dr. Carrie Wade, harm reduction policy manager for the R Street Institute, writes that it is "bothersome that there has been essentially no discussion to date about whether" FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb's proposal to reduce nicotine in cigarettes "would be ethical." Wade cites studies to argue that the policy's effectiveness in helping smokers quit "remains open to question." She also argues that "those in public health also must carefully balance coercive measures with personal liberties."

AUDIT FINDS FDA FOOD SAFETY OVERSIGHT SHOULD BE IMPROVED. The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (10/3, Muschick, 312K) reports that according to an audit released last week, FDA inspectors have issued unheeded warnings or taken too little action against firms found to be out of food safety compliance. The audit found inspectors issuing unheeded warning letters, "taking no action at all when serious health risks were found," or "relying on food processors to voluntarily clean up their act and not bothering to check whether they did," the article says. FDA spokeswoman Lauren Sucher said, "The FDA recognizes the importance of its oversight of domestic food facilities, the need to ensure that resources are utilized in the most efficient way, and the importance of following up on public health concerns identified during inspections in a timely manner," adding that the FDA is working to implement the inspector general's recommendations.

LANCE BASS CRITICIZES FDA'S CONTINUED BAN ON BLOOD DONATIONS FROM MSM. The Washington Post (10/4, Andrews-Dyer, 10.38M) reports Lance Bass criticized "the Food and Drug Administration's continued ban on blood donation from men who have sex with men" in a tweet. Bass tweeted, "How is it STILL illegal for gays to donate blood??!! I want to donate and I'm not allowed." The Huffington Post (10/4, Wong, 5.74M) also covers the story.

OP-ED: NIH, SCIENTIFIC BODIES LEAD "CURIOSITY-DRIVEN" INNOVATION VITAL TO IMPROVING HEALTH. David Bilder writes in the New York Times (10/4, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) to advocate for the continued support of "curiosity-driven" scientific research such that of recently-named Nobel Prize winners Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, and Michael Young, who received the award for identifying "molecular pathways that control the circadian cycle." Bilder criticizes President Trump's "proposed budget cuts of 22 percent for the National Institutes of Health," saying the institute is one of two that "fund most basic biological research in the United States." He also argues that some research, such as that into the biological patterns of the fruit fly, can unlock new discoveries for innovative disease treatments in humans.

CDC DEACTIVATES EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER FOR ZIKA VIRUS. The Atlanta Business Chronicle (10/4, Hensley, Subscription Publication, 967K) reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has "deactivated its emergency response center for the Zika virus." The agency "will continue to work to protect people affected by Zika and coordinate with federal, state and local governments to help families touched by the virus."

FORMER SURGEON GENERAL SAYS THERE IS A "LONELINESS EPIDEMIC" IN THE US. The Washington Post (10/4, McGregor, 10.38M) reports former surgeon general Vivek H. Murthy says that there is a "loneliness epidemic" in the US, and that the workplace is a major factor. The article reports that "in a new cover story in the Harvard Business Review, Murthy treats loneliness like a public health crisis, and the workplace as one of the primary places where it can get better – or worse."

Health Reform:

SCHUMER SEEKS TO ADD ACA STABILIZATION PROVISIONS TO CHIP REAUTHORIZATION BILL. The Hill (10/4, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) "called for provisions to stabilize ObamaCare to be combined with a bill reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)." The article says this is an attempt "to provide a vehicle for bipartisan ObamaCare provisions to pass the Senate, but it also could complicate negotiations on extending CHIP, which Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) wanted to keep as a clean bill."



The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/4, Howell, 541K) quotes Schumer as saying, "Now that the Senate Finance committee has reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Leader [Mitch] McConnell should immediately put this bill to the Senate floor for a vote and include much-needed bipartisan provisions to stabilize the markets, lower premiums in 2018, and renew funding for community health centers and numerous other important health provisions that expired over the weekend." The article adds that while most states will have enough funding through the end of the year, Congress must take action before states begin notifying parents about potential loss of coverage.

The Washington Examiner (10/4, Leonard, 465K) also covers the story.

DESPITE UNCERTAINTY CAUSED BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION THREATS, ACA ENROLLMENT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 1. Bloomberg Business (10/4, Recht, 4.52M) reports that despite attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the "marketplaces will open as planned on Nov. 1." The article says while several counties had faced the possibility of coverage gaps, ultimately, "all those potential bare counties were filled." The piece adds that the Trump Administration has "repeatedly threatened" to end ACA subsidy payments to insurers, but to date, "the administration has continued to make these payments," although "the uncertainty has shaken insurers." As a result of this uncertainty, many insurers have raised rates significantly, or exited ACA marketplaces.

GOP THREATS TO REPEAL ACA PREVENTING SOME CONSUMERS FROM ENROLLING IN PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR. Reuters (10/4, Abutaleb) reports that President Trump's "threats to let Obamacare collapse are sowing confusion about its fate and dampening 2018 enrollment expectations." The article says the growing uncertainty in Arizona and other states indicates that although the GOP has failed to repeal the ACA, "the Republican effort to undermine it is gaining traction." The piece adds that interviews with various groups reveal that because of Republicans' vow "to keep trying until they succeed" in repealing the healthcare law, "consumers are increasingly hesitant to sign up" for ACA coverage next year.

HOUSE PANEL ADVANCES EFFORTS TO REPEAL IPAB. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, King, 465K) reports that on Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee "advanced a bill that would eliminate an advisory board created by Obamacare that was at the center of rumors the healthcare law would create a death panel." The panel voted 24-13 to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which is comprised of "15 experts who determine cuts to Medicare if spending on the entitlement program reaches a limit." The article says the committee does not expect IPAB action to be triggered until 2022.

ACA PREMIUMS FOR NEXT YEAR EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY DOUBLE DIGITS IN MANY STATES. The <u>Daily Caller</u> (10/4, Donachie, 521K) reports that health insurers are seeking "double-digit increases in premiums for plans offered on the Obamacare state exchanges in 2018, a sign that the insurance marketplace woes are only getting worse." The article says rates in many states "will increase dramatically in 2018, rising as high as 57 percent in some areas." The piece adds that last week, the Senate failed to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill, which was Republicans' latest attempt to repeal the ACA.

MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CONNECTOR WARNS OF PREMIUM INCREASES FOR 2018. The Boston Globe (10/4, McCluskey, 969K) reports health insurance premiums for the 80,000 Massachusetts residents who buy coverage on the state's Health Connector may rise 24 percent on average if the Trump Administration stops paying cost-sharing reductions and 8.7 percent if it continues making the payments, according to state officials on Wednesday. The Globe says that the "contrasting scenarios reflect the difficult position in which Massachusetts finds itself as uncertainty over the future of health policy in Washington threatens to cause further turmoil across health insurance markets nationwide." Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) wrote the state's congressional delegation this week to say, "It is critical for federal cost sharing reduction payments to be resolved affirmatively in order to maintain market stability and to constrain rate increases." The article adds that if the government stops making the payments, rates could increase dramatically mid-year.

The Springfield (MA) Republican (10/4, Young, 520K) reports Massachusetts Health and Human Service



Secretary Marylou Sudders explained, "Faced with this uncertainty and challenges, the Health Connector and Division of Insurance have worked extremely closely with carriers all summer to develop two potential pathways with the guiding principle of protecting members first and always." Gov. Baker submitted a waiver request seeking "aggressive fast track review" by October 15 on an alternative plan to establish a "Premium Stabilization Fund in lieu of CSRs and authority to waive CSRs and instead receive any federal premium tax credit savings that will accrue as a pass-through, which could be used to stabilize premiums via direct issuer reimbursement."

ANALYSIS: ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES INCREASINGLY CHALLENGING FOR CONNECTICUT'S RURAL RESIDENTS. The Hartford (CT) Courant (10/4, Mozdzer, 463K) examines Connecticut's rural residents' access to healthcare services in light of the latest data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The Courant says the data show that "rural residents were more likely than their city and suburban counterparts to die from four of the top five causes of death: heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease and unintentional injury." The piece discusses the challenge of transportation and long commutes, as well as doctor shortages, and the effects of hospital consolidation.

SEN. ALEXANDER SUPPORTS FUNDING CSRS FOR 2 YEARS IN ACA STABILIZATION BILL. Fierce Healthcare (10/4, Small, 146K) reports Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said the ACA stabilization package he is preparing would include funding for cost-sharing reduction payments for two years. Fierce adds that Alexander previously supported just one year of funding, while healthcare industry groups and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) advocated for a longer guarantee. The status of a bill remains unclear, with some reports saying that Republicans were "doubtful" following a luncheon Tuesday and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer saying that an agreement may be close.

CALIFORNIA ENACTS TWO LAWS TO HELP CONSUMERS IN ACA MARKETPLACE. The Los Angeles Times (10/4, Mason, 4.49M) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signed two bills Wednesday to assist Californians who get their health insurance from Covered California, the state's ACA marketplace. One measure adds time to the enrollment period "in order to give Californians adequate time to sign up for coverage," after the Trump Administration shortened the enrollment period to 45 days. The second ensures "continuity of care" for people whose insurers left the market, allowing them to continue to see their physicians for up to one year.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Seth Chandler writes in an opinion piece in the Forbes (10/4, 5.11M) "The Apothecary" blog that Iowa is struggling under the Affordable Care Act and has developed the Iowa Stopgap Measure to address some of the problems. Chandler argues that that measure "helps upper middle class Iowans afford health insurance," but "it illegally deprives poorer Iowans of the ability to make use of health insurance."

Nancy Altman, the president of Social Security Works, writes in an opinion piece in the <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/4, 5.74M) that "having failed to pass a bill that would have taken away health care from tens of millions of Americans to give a giant tax cut to the wealthy, Republicans are now trying to do the same thing in reverse." Altman argues that Republicans' "tax reform" bill would include "an enormous tax giveaway to billionaires and giant, profitable corporations," which would "increase the deficit, which in turn will provide the GOP with an excuse to demand cuts to Medicare and Medicaid."

Ed Kilgore writes in the <u>Daily Intelligencer (NY)</u> (10/4, 519K) that "Republicans who share the president's desire to 'let Obamacare implode,' or perhaps give the health-care initiative a good strong push toward failure, seem to be getting their wish," as "massive double-digit rate hikes" are being announced. Insurers have "explicitly" cited "uncertainty around Congress and the president's plans for the individual market," including the threat of discontinuing "cost sharing reductions" for the increases. The article discusses bipartisan negotiations between Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), reporting that the "problem is less a matter of disagreement between Alexander and Murray, and more about the lack of interest in Obamacare stabilization in the GOP congressional leadership and the ranks of Republicans generally." The piece concludes, "It's amazing the damage this Republican Congress and administration



can wreak while basically doing nothing."

Carolinas AGC president Dave Simpson and North Carolina Chamber president Lew Ebert writes for the Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (10/4, 381K) that the Health Insurance Tax passed as part of the Affordable Care Act is set to return in 2018 and "will significantly burden North Carolina businesses and employers, making it difficult to provide health insurance to our employees, expand our workforces and grow North Carolina's economy." A 2015 bipartisan delay of the tax "lowered policyholders' premiums by 3 percent and saved the health care system \$13.9 billion," but without action the tax will cost "Americans, employers, states and the federal government \$22 billion in 2018 and \$267 billion from 2018 to 2027."

Opioid News:

WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE TO EXPAND NUMBER OF SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL KIOSKS TO 1,500 STORES. In a piece for Forbes (10/4, 5.11M), contributor Bruce Japsen writes, "Walgreens Boots Alliance will expand the number of safe medication disposal kiosks across the country to 1,500 stores, specifically targeting locations near 'military bases and other areas where the opioid epidemic has challenged communities,'" the company announced on Oct. 4. According to Japsen, "Walgreens is the latest healthcare company to step up efforts to combat the abuse and misuse of the overprescribed" pain medications.

TWO MAJOR US MANUFACTURERS OF OPIOIDS LIKELY TO BE NAMED IN CIVIL SUITS BY NEW JERSEY AG, SOURCES SAY. The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (10/4, Brodessert-Akner, 1.62M) reports that Purdue Pharma and Insys Therapeutics, both "major US manufacturers of opioids, are likely to be named in civil suits by New Jersey Attorney General Christopher Porrino as early as this week for deceptive practices in marketing the" medications, "two sources with direct knowledge of the situation tell NJ Advance Media." The goal "is to cut into the widespread use of opioids in New Jersey."

FORMER HEROIN ADDICT CALLS UPON 12-STEP PROGRAMS TO UPDATE THEIR ABSTINENCE-BASED APPROACH. In <u>STAT</u> (10/4, Brico, 43K) "First Opinion," writer Elizabeth Brico, a former heroin addict, calls for "Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, and other 12-step programs to update their approach, or step aside," because "abstinence-based models are too dangerous to rule the recovery community any longer."

Healthcare Fraud:

MED-FAST PHARMACY AGREES TO PAY \$2.7 MILLION TO SETTLE FEDERAL HEALTHCARE FRAUD CLAIMS. The AP (10/4, Mandak) reports Med-Fast Pharmacy, which is based in Aliquippa, PA, has agreed to pay almost "\$2.7 million to settle federal claims that it illegally recycled unused nursing home medications and overcharged government insurance programs for diabetic test strips." The settlement concerns Med-Fast "and its in-house subsidiary, Iserve Technologies, which operates retail pharmacies, a mail-order prescription service and drug deliveries to nursing homes and other agencies throughout western Pennsylvania."

The <u>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</u> (10/4, Ove, 516K) reports that as part of the settlement, the US Attorney's office announced that Gino Cordisco, the former vice president of store operations for Med-Fast Pharma, and Iserve Technologies have "been charged with conspiracy in a scheme to re-use medications left over from nursing homes by repackaging the drugs for resale to other nursing homes."

MISSISSIPPI OPHTHALMOLOGIST ARRESTED ON 17 COUNTS OF MEDICAID FRAUD. WDBD-TV Jackson, MS (10/3, Ballou, 61K) reports on its website that Harold Peltan, MD, an ophthalmologist in Cleveland, MS, was "arrested on 17 counts of Medicaid fraud." Peltan allegedly "billed for care not provided to his patients, created false bills during post-operative periods, and billed for care that was not medically necessary" between 2011 and 2014.



Healthcare News:

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS SET TO INCREASE BY 6.1 PERCENT.

The Washington Post (10/4, Joe Davidson, 10.38M) reports in its "PowerPost" blog that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said Wednesday that health insurance premiums for federal employees and retirees will increase 6.1 percent in 2018. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program covers 8.3 million people. The government's portion of the premiums will increase by an average of 3.2 percent. Together, the "average overall increase, including the employer and employee share, will rise by 4 percent in 2018, compared to 4.4 percent last year."

PLANNED PARENTHOOD ASKS EIGHTH CIRCUIT TO STAY ITS RULING UPHOLDING ARKANSAS STATE ABORTION PILL LAW. The AP (10/4, Demillo) reports Planned Parenthood asked the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to stay its ruling upholding an Arkansas state law that restricts the use of the abortion pill, while it appeals the court's decision to the US Supreme Court. The state law requires physicians "who provide the abortion pill to maintain a contract with another physician who has admitting privileges at a hospital and agrees to handle any complications."

ANALYSIS: MANY WOMEN SUPPORT LATE-TERM ABORTION BAN, POLLS SAY. The Washington Post (10/4, Scott, 10.38M) reports in its "The Fix" blog that the House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday which would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases to save the life of the mother, rape, or incest. According to polls, a large percentage of women agree with social conservatives on late-term abortion prohibitions, such as a January Qunnipiac poll that found 42 percent of women support such legislation. The column adds that "Antiabortion activists argue that a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks, though the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has not endorsed those findings." The Post says that the bill is not expected to pass in the Senate.

Human Services News:

\$6.5 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED TO SUPPORT ALABAMA EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM. The Montgomery (AL) Advertiser (10/4, Lyman, 18K) reports the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education will continue funding for its First Teacher Home Visiting program after \$6.5 million in federal MIECHV grant funding. "MIECHV supports Home Visiting services for more than 1,500 families in 43 counties across the state."

Food & Import Safety:

FDA ACCUSES LOS ANGELES SEAFOOD DISTRIBUTOR OF LAX CONTROLS. The Los Angeles Times (10/4, Smith, 4.49M) reports on a lawsuit filed Tuesday in the US District Court for the Central District Court of California on behalf of the Food and Drug Administration alleging that seafood distributed by Los Angeles-based Michel Cordon Bleu Inc. failed to maintain "controls necessary to minimize the potential for microorganism growth and contamination." According to the complaint, the FDA inspected the firm's facility multiple times and "found conditions that could lead to contamination by the bacteria that cause listeriosis and botulism," the Times reports. Michel Cordon Bleu Vice President El Yaakoube defended the company's smoked seafood products, "but he conceded the company has not kept up with new requirements."

Medicare:

RISING MEDICARE PART B COSTS MAY CONSUME COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES IN SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS. Kaiser Health News (10/5, Graham) reports higher premiums for Medicare Part B for physicians may consume most of the cost-of-living adjustment seniors will receive next year from Social Security. Juliette Cubanski, associate director of the program on Medicare policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation, expects that the cost-of-living adjustment for 2018 may be 2.2 percent – a \$29.92 increase for the average monthly Social Security check. CMS may ask those who paid \$109 per month



this year to pay \$134 next year, an increase of \$25. Lisa Swirsky, a policy adviser at the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, concluded, "Many seniors are going to be disappointed."

Medicaid & CHIP:

SENATE COMMITTEE "EASILY" APPROVES CHIP FUNDING BILL. The AP (10/4, Fram) reports that on Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee "easily" approved a measure to reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program "as pressure grew on Congress to act." The article says since passage by the full Senate "is probably inevitable, lawmakers from both parties are lining up to attach pet provisions to it, such as increasing federal aid to hospitals or helping insurers curb growing premiums."

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/4, Leonard, 465K) reports that the bill is called the Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure Act, and it extends CHIP for five years. The article says Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) was the only dissenting vote because he was concerned "about how Congress was using a large portion of the funding toward purposes other than healthcare for kids."

Modern Healthcare (10/4, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) also covers the story.

OPINION: REPUBLICANS ARE EXPLOITING THEIR OWN NEGLECT TO BARGAIN FOR CUTS IN CHIP RENEWAL BILL. Dr. Eugene Gu, a resident physician at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, writes in The Hill (10/4, 1.68M) that the "failed Graham-Cassidy bill...distracted Congress from renewing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)" because "Lawmakers were literally too busy trying to strip health care from 32 million Americans and patients with pre-existing conditions to renew coverage for vulnerable children in working class families." The House Republicans' bill to fund CHIP "disproportionately hurts low income Americans who live paycheck to paycheck" because it is funded by "shortening the payment grace period for ACA marketplace premiums from 90 to 30 days," cuts \$5.5 billion from the ACA's "prevention and public health fund," and cuts "another \$4 billion by adjusting Medicaid's third party liability policy." Dr. Gu says it is "unconscionable" and "almost shocking" that Republicans are using the "sense of urgency that they themselves created to make cuts to both the ACA and Medicare."

EDITORIAL: NO EXCUSE FOR CONGRESS NOT TO PASS RENEWAL OF CHIP. The Houston Chronicle (10/4, 1.97M) editorializes that "there's no excuse for Congress to delay on passing a quick and clean renewal" of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides coverage for nearly 9 million children in the US. The Chronicle says, "Children's health deserves better than to be treated as a political football – especially while Texas children are still reeling from Hurricane Harvey." The editorial asks why Congress would allow CHIP to expire and concludes, "Maybe the answer is obvious: Kids don't vote and don't make campaign donations. And in Washington, that means they don't matter."

IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE MARIA, LAWMAKERS IN CONGRESS PUSH FOR MORE MEDICAID FUNDING FOR PUERTO RICO. Paige Winfield writes in the Washington Post (10/4, 10.38M) "The Health 202" that "there could be a silver lining for" Puerto Rico "as it seeks to emerge from the wreckage" of Hurricane Maria: "a renewed focus from Congress on the health-care funding cliff it faces later this year." Data indicate the federal government reimburses the island for only 57 percent of Medicaid costs, compared to about 83 percent for the states. Winfield says this disaster has galvanized support from several congressional lawmakers for more equitable funding for Puerto Rico.

STATE LAWMAKER ASKS TENNESSEE GOVERNOR TO EXPAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY. The Tennessean (10/4, Gadd, 499K) reports that before speaking to local leaders in Dickson, Tennessee, and meeting with the CEO of TriStar Horizon Medical Center, state Rep. Craig Fitzhugh (D-Ripley) called a press conference to ask Gov. Bill Haslam (R) for a special session to expand Medicaid eligibility. Fitzhugh said, "Some of my colleagues in the Legislature have been waiting for Congress to do something. Now, it's clear they are not going to do anything." He added, "The governor doesn't seem to think the votes are there, but we are halfway there in the house."



PENNSYLVANIA COURT RULES AGAINST UNITEDHEALTHCARE IN PROTEST OF MEDICAID CONTRACT AWARDS. The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/4, Brubaker, 1.71M) reports that a panel of Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court judges ruled Wednesday against UnitedHealthcare of Pennsylvania's appeal of the state Department of Human Services' decision in August 2016 to award contracts to three of its competitors to participate in a Medicaid managed care program for nursing homes and long term care. UnitedHealthcare said it was unfair that Centene was permitted to submit performance scores from its operations in other states because it had not operated in Pennsylvania. The court rejected all of UnitedHealthcare's arguments, holding that the company failed to meet deadlines for appealing the contract award.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION CONSIDERS MANAGED CARE MEDICAID SYSTEM. The Concord (NH) Monitor (10/5, DeWitt, 38K) reports that a New Hampshire Medicaid study commission met Wednesday to discuss whether to move the state's Medicaid expansion population to a "managed-care model," as other states have done. The Monitor said that the "model was received favorably by many on the commission," which is comprised of legislators, providers, and insurance representatives. The commission is due to produce a report on its findings by December 1.

Health & Medical News:

JUDGE TO DECIDE WHETHER HEAD OF MICHIGAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL GO TO TRIAL FOR DEATH DURING FLINT WATER CRISIS. The AP (10/4) reports a judge is considering whether Nick Lyon, the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, "should go to trial for the death of a man who had Legionnaires' disease during the" Flint water crisis. Lyon has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and misconduct in office.

Meanwhile, MLive (MI) (10/4, Fonger, 947K) reports, "Michigan State Police Director Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue told a judge Wednesday, Oct. 4, that she doesn't remember issues related to a Legionnaires' outbreak in Flint being discussed in a meeting between Gov. Rick Snyder [R] and some of his top advisers in late 2015." Etue, who was "called as a witness by special Flint water prosecutors during a preliminary examination for state Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon...said she couldn't recall specifics in answering several questions, including whether Lyon attended a November 2015 meeting, called to discuss a possible emergency declaration because of the contamination of the city's water."

MANY PUERTO RICANS FACING HEALTH PROBLEMS AFTER HURRICANE. The Wall Street Journal (10/4, Hernandez, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports many Puerto Ricans are facing health problems in the wake of Hurricane Maria. The article reports that many residents still lack access to clean water, medical supplies, and healthcare. The article mentions that many people have reported eye infections or conjunctivitis, and that health officials are also concerned about mosquito-borne diseases.

SCARCITY-MARKED AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MARIA TAKING MENTAL HEALTH TOLL ON PUERTO RICO. The AP (10/4, Melia, Coto) reports Hurricane Maria that clobbered Puerto Rico "two weeks ago and the scarcity-marked aftermath are taking a toll on islanders' equilibrium." Currently, Puerto Rico's "government counted two suicides among the death toll, which now stands at 34, and with many communities still waiting for power and clean water, there is concern about others reaching a breaking point." Puerto Rico needs "more mental health professionals" to help people deal with the aftermath of the storm and the rebuilding process.

Long-Lasting Power Outages May Take A Lasting Toll On People's Mental Health, Experts Say. TIME (10/4, Sifferlin, Vick, 5.85M) reports, "It's been two weeks since Hurricane Maria swept through Puerto Rico, plunging it into darkness," knocking its power grid offline and creating a power outage that "could last for months." Such long-lasting power outages may "also take a lasting toll on people's mental health, experts say." It is difficult for people to cope with "the shutdown of necessities like food storage, transportation, life support devices and more." Being without electricity "can also increase loneliness and



cut people off from one other."

ANALYSIS CONSIDERS ROLE THAT FEDERAL GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH FUNDING BAN HAS HAD ON GUN CONTROL DEBATE. The Washington Post (10/4, Frankel, 10.38M) features a "Wonkblog" analysis from Todd Frankel concerning the fact that the CDC stopped funding research into gun violence in 1996, which has led to overall research into the area coming to a near-standstill in the 21 years since that change. According to Frankel, "Everyone agrees the Las Vegas shooting was a tragedy. But no one knows what might work to prevent the next one" due to the lack of research funding into the topic. Frankel also notes that former Republican congressman Jay Dickey, once the primary advocate for stopping the CDC's gun violence research in the 1990s, reversed his position prior to his death earlier this year, saying, "We need to turn this over to science and take it away from politics."

FOLLOWING LAS VEGAS SHOOTING, EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXPERT CALL ATTENTION TO NUMBER OF TRAUMA CENTERS, CAPACITY. USA Today (10/4, O'Donnell, 8.62M) reports emergency care experts say in the wake of the Las Vegas shooting that a "health care systems' ability to treat mass injuries and casualties depend upon the number and type of hospitals, their capacity and preparedness and system wide plans to coordinate the response." Boston bombing survivor and psychologist Patrick Downes advocates for military hospitals "to begin routinely treating civilian trauma patients to help both service members and trauma victims," citing the fact that Boston's seven Level 1 trauma centers were under great stress following the bombing, meaning Nevada's sole Level 1 trauma center must be under even greater strain. A 2008 congressional report found that even Level 1 trauma centers in the "seven cities surveyed had the capacity to deal with surges of patients" similar to what followed recent emergency events around the world.

Kaiser Health News (10/4) also provides coverage.

LAS VEGAS SHOOTINGS EXPECTED TO ADD TO WOES OF NEVADA'S OVERSTRETCHED MENTAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. STAT (10/4, Robbins, 43K) reports, "Nevada's mental health system was already overstretched before" last week's mass shooting, and "now, thousands of victims, survivors, and their loved ones – as well as first responders and local workers who witnessed the horror – are expected to need mental health services" in the weeks and months to come. The state was "ranked last in the US by measures of access to mental health care in a report released last year by the nonprofit group Mental Health America." Nevada also "has fewer psychiatrists per capita than all but three other states."

STUDY SHOWS 78,000 FIREARM INJURIES EACH YEAR COST MEDICAL SYSTEM \$46 BILLION IN LOST WORK, MEDICAL CARE. Reuters (10/4, Cohen) reports a study (10/1, 34K) published in Health Affairs found that 78,000 people "are treated in U.S. hospitals for firearm injuries" each year, costing the US medical system roughly \$46 billion in lost work and medical care. The study also found that unintentional shootings accounted for more than one-third of all non-fatal firearm injuries treated in hospitals. According to David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, said, "Horrific mass killings receive the most media attention, but as can be seen by the numbers, they only represent a small portion of the total costs – human and medical – of gun injuries in the United States."

COLUMN: THE CASE FOR REPEALING THE SECOND AMENDMENT. Bret Stephens writes in a column for the New York Times (10/5, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) that he has "never understood the conservative fetish for the Second Amendment" because "more guns means more murder" and "more guns means less safety." After examining the arguments typically raised by conservatives, Stephens says "liberals keep losing the gun control debate" because "they argue their case badly and – let's face it – in bad faith" by "routinely" professing "their fidelity to the Second Amendment." He concludes that the proposals on gun control "tinker at the margins" and that there "is only one way" to address the problem: "Repeal the Second Amendment."

OLDER ADULTS MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO DISCLOSE SUICIDE INTENT, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. Reuters (10/4, Rapaport) reports that "23 percent of suicide victims age 50 or older shared suicidal thoughts with another person in the month before their death," researchers found after examining "data on 46,857 suicide deaths among adults 50 or older in US states."



<u>HealthDay</u> (10/4, Preidt, 11K) reports that "the older" the adults "were, the more likely they were to disclose" their intentions, the study revealed.

MICHIGAN WOMAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN DAYS IN JAIL FOR REFUSING TO CONTINUE CHILD'S VACCINATIONS. In "To Your Health," the Washington Post (10/4, Phillips, 10.38M) reports, "A Michigan woman will spend seven days in jail after she defied a judge's order to have her nine-year-old son vaccinated."

On its website, <u>ABC News</u> (10/4, 2.83M) reports Rebecca Bredow of Michigan was "sentenced to seven days in jail for refusing to bring her child's vaccinations up to date." Bredow said, "I would rather go to jail for standing up for what I believe in than vaccinating my child." The article reports that the American Academy of Pediatrics "emphasizes the safety and importance of vaccines and recommends a schedule of when to provide them."

MANY EMPLOYERS PUSHING FOR EXPANSION OF TELEMEDICINE. Reuters (10/4, Pinsker) reports a growing number of employers are covering telehealth services through their insurance plans and are also pushing employees to use the services. The article reports that five years ago, only 7% of employers covered telehealth visits through their health insurance plans, but today 96% of employers do. Usage remains low, however. The article mentions that the American Medical Association supports telehealth as "an ongoing evolution of new models for the delivery of care and patient-physician interactions," but that providers should recognize the "limitations of the relevant technologies and take appropriate steps to overcome those limitations."

PHYSICIANS DISCOVER WOMAN SUSPECTED OF HAVING LYMPHOMA WAS ACTUALLY HAVING A REACTION TO AN OLD TATTOO. In continuing coverage, the Washington Post (10/4, Bever, 10.38M) "To Your Health" blog reports that physicians suspected an Australian woman had developed lymphoma, but upon further examination they discovered that her body was having a bad reaction to an old tattoo that she had received years earlier, according to a case report published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. The article notes that "the FDA has not approved any inks for injection into the skin for cosmetic purposes."

INJECTIONS OF ANTIBODIES FROM ZIKA-INFECTED HUMANS MAY PREVENT ZIKA INFECTION IN OTHERS, MONKEY STUDY SUGGESTS. The Miami Herald (10/4, Chang, 701K) reports researchers prevented Zika infection in macaque monkeys by injecting them with antibodies cloned from an infected person, according to a study published in Science Translational Medicine. The researchers hope a similar approach could be used to give people at risk for Zika infection temporary immunity to the virus.

FDA APPROVES GENERIC VERSION OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS DRUG. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/4, Grant, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that the Food and Drug Administration has approved Mylan to sell a generic version of Teva Pharmaceuticals' multiple sclerosis drug, Copaxone (glatiramer acetate). According to the Journal, the approval could force Teva to pursue asset sales more aggressively to help service the company's \$30 billion debt load.

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/4, Altstedter, 4.52M) reports that Mylan "said it will begin shipping the drug imminently." Bloomberg says the FDA's approval "is another blow in a tumultuous year" for Teva, which "has reduced its dividend, sold assets and cut jobs" already.

Reuters (10/4) reports that the FDA "approved both doses – 20 mg and 40 mg – of Mylan's version of Copaxone, which generated global sales of \$1.02 billion for Teva in the second quarter of this year."

Additional coverage is provided by <u>STAT</u> (10/4, Silverman, 43K), the <u>Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer</u> (10/4, Loyd, 1.71M), the <u>Philadelphia Business Journal</u> (10/4, George, Subscription Publication, 894K), the <u>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</u> (10/4, Sabatini, 516K), <u>Fierce Pharma</u> (10/4, Helfand), <u>CNBC</u> (10/4, Lovelace, 3.48M), and the <u>Financial Times</u> (10/4, Crow, Subscription Publication, 1.34M).



DNA-BASED ZIKA VACCINE SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS IN EARLY STAGE HUMAN TRIAL.

Reuters (10/4, Steenhuysen) reports that Inovio Pharmaceuticals and GeneOne Life Science's DNA-based Zika vaccine "induced anti-Zika immune responses in an early stage human trial." After three doses of the vaccine, each of the 40 participants "developed Zika-specific antibodies."

EXPERIMENTAL DRUG SHOWS GREATER IMPROVEMENTS IN MUSCLE AND LUNG FUNCTION FOR PEOPLE WITH POMPE DISEASE THAN STANDARD OF CARE, CLINICAL TRIAL SHOWS.

STAT (10/4, Feuerstein, 43K) reports that an experimental drug from Amicus Therapeutics "appears to deliver greater improvements in muscle and lung function for people with Pompe" than existing treatment, "according to interim data from a small, mid-stage study." The company plans to begin a Phase III clinical trial in mid-2018, "but the company is also gathering additional data from the phase 2 study, which could be used to accelerate approval following meetings with regulators in the U.S. and Europe."

STATES IN DEEP SOUTH, MIDWEST HAVE HIGHER SMOKING RATE THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE, REPORT CONCLUDES. Bloomberg News (10/4, Kaplan, 4.52M) reports that although the US average smoking rate "has declined significantly over the past several decades," a group "of 12 states in the Deep South and Midwest is lagging behind," according to a report by the Truth Initiative. The report explains that among Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee and West Virginia, "22 percent of adults smoke, compared with 15 percent in the rest of the U.S., giving the area the highest concentration of smokers in the nation."

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR EXPECTED TO SIGN UNANIMOUSLY-APPROVED "RIGHT TO TRY" BILL. The Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News (10/4, Murphy, 553K) reports the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Wednesday voted 198-0 to send a "Right to Try" bill to Gov. Tom Wolf (D), who is expected to sign it. The bill, effective in 60 days after ratification, "would allow access to treatments that have not been fully approved by U.S. Food and Drug Administration for dying patients" after patients have considered "all other FDA-approved options."

FEWER PATIENTS RECEIVED CHOLESTEROL MEDICATION DURING FIRST YEAR PRODUCT WAS MARKETED DUE TO LACK OF INSURANCE APPROVAL, HIGHER COPAYS, STUDY FINDS.

Reuters (10/4, Weinstock) reports a <u>study</u> published in JAMA Cardiology found that during the first year PCSK9 inhibitors to lower cholesterol were available on the market, about one in three patients with a prescription treatment received the therapy due to a lack of insurance approval and high copay costs. The study found "the rate of insurance company approval of PCSK9 inhibitors was 47.2 percent" while "only 34.7 percent of patients prescribed the medicine ever picked it up due to its high out-of-pocket cost," which usually reach "up to \$14,000 per year."

CALIFORNIA BILL WOULD FORCE DRUG COMPANIES TO PRESENT JUSTIFICATION FOR PRICE INCREASES. NPR (10/4, Dembosky, 2.4M) reports a California bill designed to require pharmaceutical companies to notify the state 60 days before raising drug prices by 16 percent or more over two years also "would force [them] to justify big price hikes on drugs in California." Gov. Jerry Brown (D), in signing the bill by October 15, would "deal the drug lobby a rare defeat." Legislators attempted a similar measure last year, but it "crashed and burned"; however, this year "the bill passed with 66 votes" from all Democratic and half of Republican state Assembly members voting for it.

SILICON VALLEY VENTURE INVESTORS LEAD \$12 MILLION SEED FUNDING FOR "STEALTH" BIOSCIENCES STARTUP. CNBC (10/4, Farr, 3.48M) reports Silicon Valley venture investors Sean Parker and Peter Thiel are leading a \$12 million "massive seed round" for 3T Biosciences, a "stealth start-up" company developing T-cell therapies that "bolster the body's own immune system to fight cancer." An unnamed source familiar with the matter "said the company is led by cancer biology PhD student and investor, Asset Management Ventures' principal Luke Lee, as well as a group of academics from Christopher Garcia's biology lab at Stanford."

EXPERIMENTAL DRUG THAT MUTES DEFECTIVE GENES RAISES HOPES. STAT (10/5, Keshavan, 43K) reports on a late-stage clinical trial of an experimental drug which can "mute misbehaving genes" in a patient's body, "stopping the production of proteins that cause a terribly painful rare disease," called



familial amyloid polyneuropathy. The drug, patisiran, uses technology called RNA interference, or RNAi, and was developed by Alnylam in conjunction with Sanofi. The clinical trial showed that "the drug works – and that it's safe." The article discusses the challenges and obstacles of RNAi treatments. Patisiran "should be up for review by the Food and Drug Administration in a couple months, and will be up for European regulatory approval next year."

EXPERIMENTAL GENE THERAPY HELPS BOYS WITH ADRENOLEUKODYSTROPHY. The AP (10/4, Marchione) reports "gene therapy has scored another win" with an experimental treatment for boys with the inherited nerve disease adrenoleukodystrophy. In the study published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine, "15 of the 17 boys treated in a study had no major disability two years later." Dr. Marc Engelen of Emma Children's Hospital in Amsterdam wrote in a commentary that the results are at least as good as stem cell transplants from suitable donors "and it is possibly safer," but questions remain about how long the benefits will last, the cost of the therapy, and whether it will replace stem cell transplants.

OPINION: CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION EXEMPTIONS BAN SHOULD BE REPEALED. Terry Roark, California advocacy director for the nonprofit National Vaccine Information Center, writes in an op-ed for the <u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> (10/4, 668K) that the state's "immunization exemptions ban" is violating the "human right to informed consent to medical risk-taking." From a disease control perspective, Senate Bill 277 was unnecessary as "the personal belief vaccine exemption rate for California kindergartners was 2.5 percent, which was lower than in 14 other states providing personal belief exemptions to vaccination." Roark writes that under the law, "physicians writing medical exemptions today are being threatened with loss of their medical licenses."

IMMIGRANTS MAY GET MORE INTENSIVE CARE AT END OF LIFE, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (10/4, Rapaport) reports, "Recent immigrants may be more likely than other people to receive aggressive treatment in their last six months of life and die in intensive care, a Canadian study suggests." After researchers accounted for other factors influencing end-of-life care, recent immigrants were found to be 30 percent more likely to die in intensive care units. Senior study author Dr. Robert Fowler of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto said that the mistaken perception "is that more procedures and machines represent better care, when in fact it doesn't reflect care that would address patients' and families' fundamental needs at the end of life."

SAN DIEGO PARAMEDICS TEMPORARILY AUTHORIZED TO VACCINATE AT RISK PATIENTS AGAINST HEPATITIS A AMID OUTBREAK. The San Diego Union-Tribune (10/4, Sisson, 668K) reports the California Emergency Medical Services Authority has temporarily granting paramedics emergency powers to "vaccinate at-risk populations in response to the outbreak" of hepatitis A. "Paramedics will be able to deliver hepatitis A doses only under the supervision of nurses and only at special events created to inoculate those who are at high risk of infection, including homeless residents, drug users and those with liver disease or compromised immune systems."

SAN DIEGO TO OPEN CAMP FOR HOMELESS FOLLOWING HEPATITIS OUTBREAK. The AP (10/4) reports San Diego announced Wednesday it is opening "an encampment for the homeless" starting Monday. The move aims to address "both the city's homeless problem overall and a recent outbreak of hepatitis A that has hit the homeless especially hard."

PENNSYLVANIA AUDITOR PRAISES ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S PREDICTIVE FAMILY SCREENING TOOL. The <u>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</u> (10/4, Giammarise, 516K) reports that Pennsylvania's auditor general on Wednesday "praised Allegheny County's use of technology in screening for potential child neglect." The Allegheny Family Screening Tool is a predictive risk modeling tool which uses "more than 100 variables ... to generate a score to predict the likelihood of a re-referral or home removal for a child." Marc Cherna, director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, said other counties could use similar tools.

WATCHING SPORTS STRESSES HEART ALMOST AS MUCH AS EXERCISE, SMALL STUDY SUGGESTS. Amanda MacMillan writes for TIME (10/4, 5.85M) that a new 20-person study in the



Canadian Journal of Cardiology suggests that "watching a sports match can stress your heart just as much as playing in the game itself." Researchers found that "people's pulses increased by 75% when they watched a hockey game on television and by 110% when watching one in person – equivalent to the cardiac stress of vigorous exercise." Researchers said in an editorial that the true role of cardiovascular-event "triggers," including sporting events, is unclear. "It is possible that triggers precipitate [cardiovascular] events that are about to occur soon anyway," they wrote. "If so, preventive strategies directed specifically at triggers would not be particularly helpful."

Telegraph (UK) (10/5, Bodkin, 1.08M) also reports on the small study.

Stem Cell News:

CALIFORNIA PASSES LAW REQUIRING CLINICS TO DISCLOSE WHEN STEM CELL TREATMENTS ARE NOT FDA-APPROVED. The Sacramento (CA) Business Journal (10/4, Rodd, Subscription Publication, 903K) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signed Senate Bill 512, which will require clinics in the state "that offer stem cell therapies that aren't approved by the Food and Drug Administration...to post a public notice that alerts patients to the treatments' unapproved status and encourages them to consult their primary care physicians." The law requires that the notices be displayed "conspicuously in the entrance of the health care practitioner's office."

National News:

TRUMP LAUDS BRAVERY OF FIRST RESPONDERS AND VICTIMS IN LAS VEGAS. Coverage of President Trump's Wednesday visit to Las Vegas is straightforward and respectful, focusing primarily on the President's remarks to law enforcement personnel, first responders, and victims. Coverage also notes that the President was asked about possible gun control legislation, but declined to comment.

ABC World News Tonight (10/4, story 3, 2:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that it was "the first time he's had to visit the scene of a mass shooting." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "In Las Vegas today, President Trump, in a new role, comforter in chief. With the First Lady by his side. Their first stop: the hospital treating dozens of patients, still fighting for their lives." Trump: "Some were very, very badly wounded, and they were badly wounded because they refused to leave. They wanted to help others because they saw people going down all over. And it's an incredible thing to see. That's tremendous bravery."

On the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/4, story 3, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M), Major Garrett reported, "At University Medical Center, the hospital that received 100 victims, the President thanked doctors and nurses. The President also toured the Las Vegas police command center and hailed the bravery of officers and civilians who faced the terror head on." Trump: "In the depths of horror, we will always find hope in the men and women who risk their lives for ours." <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (10/4, story 4, 0:35, Holt, 16.61M) ran a 35-second brief item on the visit.

KVVU-TV Las Vegas (10/4, 6:05 p.m. PDT, 8K) reported that Trump was at UMC "longer than he originally planned to be, visiting with doctors and patients." KSNV-TV Las Vegas (10/4, 6:08 p.m. PDT, 14K) reported that Trump's visit "lasted just roughly four hours – four very necessary hours for Las Vegas and for Nevada." KLAS-TV Las Vegas (10/4, 6:03 p.m. PDT, 20K) reported that "Trump visited several victims at the hospital and meeting with doctors and medical staff. The President offered his condolences to the community and the victims' families."

The President later tweeted a 54-second video about the visit, writing, "On behalf of a GRATEFUL NATION, THANK YOU to all of the First Responders (HEROES) who saved countless lives in Las Vegas on Sunday night," and followed with a tweet of a two-minute-and-20-second video, writing, "WE LOVE YOU LAS VEGAS!"

Jim Acosta said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (10/4, 890K), "The White House took great pains to keep the President's trip here more subdued and more scripted than other official visits in recent days." Acosta



added, "One topic the President is taking on during his visit is gun control. ... The White House is steering clear of the issue."

The <u>Las Vegas Review-Journal</u> (10/4, Erickson, 458K) reports that Trump "noted that many of the wounded were heroes themselves, saying 'they were badly wounded because they refused to leave. They wanted to help others because they saw people going down all over." The <u>AP</u> (10/4, Lucey, Colvin) reports that Trump "waved off questions about the availability of firearms – the shooter had a veritable arsenal of weapons – saying this is not the time to discuss the possibility of further restrictions."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/4, Jackson, 8.62M) reports, "Unlike Tuesday's visit with hurricane victims in Puerto Rico – where he made a joke about the cost of the federal relief efforts and told locals they could be proud that only 16 people had died versus the 'literally thousands' who were killed Hurricane Katrina in 2005 – Trump stayed very much on script in Las Vegas." The President said, "Our souls are stricken with grief. We know your sorrow feels endless. ... We will endure the pain together. We will overcome it together as Americans." <u>Breitbart</u> (10/4, Spiering, 2.42M) reports that Trump "delivered a somber statement" after meeting with law enforcement officials, and <u>Townhall</u> (10/4, Pavlich, 523K) reports that the President was accompanied by the First Lady "throughout the day and also visited wounded victims in a local hospital."

The New York Times (10/4, Landler, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says that Trump "has been uncharacteristically subdued about the Las Vegas shooting. ... He has tweeted little about it and deflected questions about the killer's motives, in contrast with previous mass shootings, which have drawn quick, furious reactions from him, particularly when the perpetrators were Muslim." For Trump, "the political subtext of Las Vegas has more to do with gun laws, which he campaigned against in 2016." The Wall Street Journal (10/4, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that the White House has indicated that the President has not changed his stance.

The New York Post (10/4, Fredericks, 4.31M) reports that the President called shooter Stephen Paddock "a very sick man, a very demented person," but would not address a possible motive." The Washington Times (10/4, Miller, 541K) reports that Trump said, "He was a very demented person and we haven't seen [a motive] yet but we will know very soon if we find something. We are looking very hard." Politico (10/4, Nelson, 3.6M) and The Hill (10/4, Easley, 1.68M) have brief reports on the President's remarks.

Legislators Of Both Parties Seem Open To "Bump Stock" Ban. USA Today (10/4, Gaudiano, Collins, 8.62M) reports, "Some key Republicans are showing interest in a narrowly written Democratic gun-control bill to ban 'bump stock' rifle attachments that enable rapid firing." Sen. John Thune "said some of his colleagues are 'at least interested' in learning more about 'that narrow issue," and Senate Majority Whip Cornyn "told reporters Wednesday that trigger accelerators are 'something that I think bears looking into." Cornyn said that he has raised the issue with Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley.

The New York Times (10/4, Stolberg, Hsu, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that House Freedom Caucus head Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) "said he would be open to considering a bill," and moderate Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) "said he was drafting bipartisan legislation" mirroring Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Senate version. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) said on CNN's Situation Room (10/4, 856K) that she is cosponsoring another bill with Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) to make bump stocks illegal "because they will change a regular gun into an automatic weapon that can fire 400-600 times in a minute. We don't need that for recreation."

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) was asked on MSNBC's Morning Joe (10/4, 836K) if lawmakers should consider outlawing the "bump stock" used by the Las Vegas gunman. Cole said, "I think there's no question we ought to look into that. Automatic weapons – when I saw the clips and heard the fire, I just assumed he had an automatic weapon. I did not know that there was technology capable that cheaply of transforming a semi-automatic into an automatic weapon. Yeah, I don't think there's any question we ought to look at that."

The Wall Street Journal (10/4, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) says in an editorial that outlawing bump stocks would not halt the practice, since "bumping" can be done with a finger, and also argues that past



bans on certain types of rifles have proven ineffective in preventing mass murder. <u>Politico</u> (10/4, Bresnahan, Kim, Everett, 3.6M) also reports on the bump stock legislation.

Las Vegas Sheriff Believes Paddock Had Help "At Some Point." The New York Post (10/4, Li, 4.31M) reports that Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said Wednesday that he "believes Paddock must have had some help along the way." Lombardo said, "You look at the weapon obtaining the different amounts of Tannerite [explosives] available, do you think this was all accomplished on his own? You got to make the assumption he had to have help some help at some point."

FBI Questioning Shooter's Girlfriend In Los Angeles. The New York Times (10/4, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Paddock's girlfriend Marilou Danley, now back in the US from the Philippines, is being questioned at the FBI building in Los Angeles. FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said that the FBI "is trying to reconstruct the actions of the gunman, including finding and interviewing 'everyone and anyone who crossed his path in recent weeks." The Washington Post (10/4, 10.38M) reports that "so far...few clues have emerged to help investigators understand" Paddock or his motives.

NBC Nightly News (10/4, story 2, 2:35, Holt, 16.61M) reported that Danley was questioned "for hours" on Wednesday. Her attorney read a statement in which she said that Paddock "never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen." According to the lead story for the CBS Evening News (10/4, lead story, 3:25, Mason, 11.17M), Danley's statement also explained that the "thousands of dollars he wired to her in the Philippines...was meant for her to buy a home there. Danley thought Paddock was planning on breaking up with her." ABC World News Tonight (10/4, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 14.63M) reported that one of Danley's sisters said Paddock "sent her away" so he could plan for the attack.

"Senior Jihadist" Claims Paddock Was An ISIS Recruit. Breitbart (10/4, Klein, Waked, 2.42M) reports in an "exclusive" that Abu Baker al-Maqdisi, "a senior jihadist associated with the Islamic State (ISIS) in the Gaza Strip, insists his terrorist organization was responsible for the Las Vegas massacre." Al-Maqdisi told Breitbart Jerusalem that Paddock "was recruited by ISIS when he converted to Islam several months ago. There is no evidence of any such conversion." Al-Maqdisi said, "Even the weapons he used in this assault were purchased with Islamic State funds." However, Breitbart reports, he offered no proof.

Republicans Hammer Murphy For Fundraising Off Las Vegas Shooting. The Connecticut Post (10/4, Vigdor, 199K) reports that Sen. Chris Murphy "is using his national profile to prime the pump for gun control groups after the Las Vegas massacre" – a move that "is being condemned by Republicans for pairing that effort with a request for re-election campaign contributions." The Murphy camp issued "an email blast Tuesday night to supporters urging them to give money to a trio of gun control groups" aligned with him, or to Murphy's re-election campaign. The Hill (10/4, Greenwood, 1.68M) reported that small-business owner Matthew Corey, one of the Republicans seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Murphy in 2018, said that Murphy "should donate contributions his campaign received from the email to the victims of the Las Vegas attack."

ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO WALK BACK TRUMP COMMENTS ON PUERTO RICO'S DEBT.

President Trump's claim in an interview that aired Tuesday night on Fox News' Hannity and again Wednesday morning on Fox News' Fox & Friends that "we have to look at [Puerto Rico's] whole debt structure. They owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street. We will have to wipe that out," sparked concern on Wall Street on Wednesday, sending Puerto Rican bonds lower and seemingly prompting the Administration to walk back the statements.

Politico (10/4, White, Wilhelm, 3.6M) reports that Wall Street "freaked out" over Trump's comments, "sending Puerto Rican bonds into a tailspin." The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/4, Gillers, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) says Puerto Rico's general obligation bonds were trading at a record low of 30 cents on the dollar Wednesday.

<u>Politico</u> (10/4, White, Wilhelm, 3.6M) says the White House "move[d] swiftly to clean up Trump's seemingly offhand remarks." The Administration "indicated it has no current plans to take the



unprecedented, politically dangerous and probably illegal step of wiping out the owners of Puerto Rico's bonds in the wake of Hurricane Maria's devastation." The New York Times (10/4, Buerkle, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports in its "DealBook" column that Trump "doesn't even have the authority to abrogate debts, something the budget director, Mick Mulvaney, seemed to recognize Wednesday when he said the president's comments shouldn't be taken literally." Anthony Mason reported on the CBS Evening News (10/4, story 7, 2:00, 11.17M) that Mulvaney said Wednesday that "there will be no bailout for Puerto Rico after the President suggested there might be."

Fox News' Special Report (10/4, 2M) showed Mulvaney saying, "I think what you saw there was the President focusing on the reality that in order to get its long-term fiscal operation back in order, Puerto Rico is going to have to figure out a way to restructure its debt." Bloomberg News (10/4, Sink, Epstein, 4.52M) reports that Mulvaney "said Wednesday that the administration is devising an aid package to send to Congress that will deal with rebuilding and repair." Mulvaney said, "We are not going to bail them out. ... We are not going to pay off those debts. We are not going to bail out those bond holders."

Meanwhile, <u>USA Today</u> (10/4, Bomey, 8.62M) reports in an analysis that while "Trump's proposal to slash all of Puerto Rico's liabilities may not be financially or politically realistic, it's increasingly likely that financiers and individuals who lent money to Puerto Rico will suffer huge losses as political momentum mounts for action."

Cardona: Puerto Rico Visit Was An Exercise In Propping Up Trump's Ego. In an op-ed for The Hill (10/4, 1.68M), Democratic strategist Maria Cardona, a principal at the Dewey Square Group, calls Trump's visit to Puerto Rico "an exercise in shoring up Trump's massive, fragile ego that had been bruised by critics who know what an afterthought in planning and preparation Puerto Rico actually was for this administration." Trump showed "zero humility, empathy, humanity and not one iota of understanding of what his fellow Americans were going through." Cardona adds that if the recovery of Puerto Rico does not happen quickly, "there will be a massive exodus of hundreds of thousands of American citizens who are immediately eligible to register and vote when they settle into states like Texas and Florida," which will not "bode well for Trump or Republicans in 2018 or 2020."

Milbank "Excerpts" Fictional Book Calling Natural Disasters "Inconvenient" For Narcissists. In his Washington Post (10/4, 10.38M) column, Dana Milbank sarcastically "excerpts" a fictional book titled "The Me-Driven Life: A Narcissist's Guide to Helping Others Understand It Is All About You," by John Barron, which is the name Trump reportedly used when masquerading as his own spokesman. In the "excerpt," Milbank writes that natural disasters "are frustrating, and inconvenient, because they tend to cause those people to think about their own problems," which is "harmful because it distracts them from their more pressing obligation to think about you."

PUERTO RICO'S DEATH TOLL MORE THAN DOUBLES TO 34. The New York Times (10/4, Ferrésadurní, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Puerto Rico's Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Wednesday that the island's official death toll has "more than doubled from 16 to 34 two weeks after the storm as a result of a full accounting intended to add up the piecemeal reports from around the island." Rosselló said, "We were not able to aggregate this complete set of data before. ... We were getting little bits of certified data, but after yesterday's effort, we have a more complete picture of what has occurred in terms of direct deaths due to the storm and indirect as well." While the new count "may still not be complete...it offers the clearest picture yet of the death toll and how people died during and after Maria, he said." Dr. Jon LaPook said on The CBS Evening News (10/4, story 7, 2:00, 11.17M) that many of the dead "are from the island's rural interior, where most people are still without water, without power, and aid is arriving very slowly. Estimates are, it will take months to restore electricity," which is "at odds with the President's upbeat remark about power to a selected crowd in a church." Trump: "Flashlights! You don't need them anymore."

Reuters (10/4, Brown, Respaut, Resnick-Ault) reports that "less than 10 percent of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million people have seen power restored – and many will wait months." While restoring the grid "would be a monumental task even for a well-run utility," it "will be much harder for the chronically underfunded Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), which went bankrupt in July amid mounting maintenance



problems, years-long battles with creditors, a shrinking workforce and frequent management turnover."

A front-page story in the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/4, A1, Hernandez, 10.38M) reports that during his visit to Puerto Rico, Trump took a "walking tour of a neighborhood, where high-speed winds had blown out some second-story windows and knocked over a few trees – but where life seemed to be returning to normal, thanks to assistance from the government." Had he "traveled a little deeper into the island, to the communities that sustained some of the heaviest damage, he would have witnessed a very different Puerto Rico." In the city of Caguas, "hills were stripped naked by Maria's malicious winds, leaving the trees without leaves and fruit, their bare branches contorted in painful postures." Houses "were blown off their foundations and destroyed by toppled vegetation," and "twisted metal roofs landed in creeks all over the once-lush region."

Contributions For Maria Victims Small Compared To Harvey, Irma Donations. USA Today (10/4, Cava, 8.62M) reports that "as contributions soar to homegrown fundraising efforts for victims of Sunday's Las Vegas shooting, those devastated by Maria have seen comparatively small donations especially when compared to money raised for those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, according to groups contacted by USA TODAY." According to fundraisers, "a prime reason for lower Maria numbers has to do with its damage coming after devastating storms hit the US mainland in Texas and Florida, which means donors are more apt to be either financially or even emotionally tapped out." In addition, media attention is "a huge factor in generating contributions, and the supersaturated coverage that greeted Harvey and Irma tapered for Maria."

WHITE HOUSE SEEKS \$29 BILLION FOR HURRICANE AID. The White House on Wednesday asked Congress "to approve \$29 billion in additional hurricane relief and debt forgiveness, seeking to help Puerto Rico and other battered areas and to shore up the troubled federal program that provides flood insurance to homes and small businesses," the New York Times (10/4, Kaplan, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports. The request "seeks \$12.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to stay current with the nearly \$200 million a day the agency is spending on recovery work." In addition, it asks lawmakers "to wipe out \$16 billion in debt that the National Flood Insurance Program owes to the Treasury and has no immediate way to repay." The White House also seeks "\$577 million in response to wildfires that have been prevalent this year in Western states, and is calling for efforts to limit the cost and devastation of wildfires."

REPORTER DESCRIBES RECOVERY EFFORTS ON ST THOMAS. In a piece for the New York Times (10/4, Subscription Publication, 13.56M), reporter Jeremy W. Peters describes recovery efforts on St. Thomas in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Peters writes that the power grid is "mostly flattened, its wires lying across roads or tangled in trees, its poles snapped in half, its transformers sitting in puddles of stagnant floodwater. It will take months to fully restore." This "has knocked out cell towers and internet service, creating a cascade of breakdowns that hampers the most basic daily necessities." Peters adds that doctors say the aftereffects of the hurricanes "are starting to show in people who are hurting themselves while cleaning out what remains of their houses or letting wounds go untreated because they cannot get to a clinic."

REUTERS: "SOURCES" SAY TRUMP DOSSIER NOW PART OF MUELLER'S INVESTIGATION. Citing "sources familiar with the inquiry," Reuters (10/4, Hosenball) reports that special counsel Robert Mueller, who is probing alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election, "has taken over FBI inquiries into a former British spy's dossier of allegations of Russian financial and personal links to President Donald Trump's campaign and associates." The dossier put together by ex-British intelligence official Christopher Steele "identified Russian businessmen and others whom US intelligence analysts have concluded are Russian intelligence officers or working on behalf of the Russian government." Reuters says a Mueller spokesperson "declined comment. The FBI also declined comment."

Three Russians Sue Fusion GPS, Reporter Over Claims In Dossier. Politico (10/4, Gerstein, 3.6M) reported, "Three Russian investors are suing private investigation firm Fusion GPS and its founder Glenn Simpson for libel over the handling of [the] intelligence dossier." Politico said, "Mikhail Fridman, Petr Aven and German Khan filed suit Tuesday in US District Court in Washington, claiming that their reputations



were unfairly tattered by the so-called dossier." Politico added, "The plaintiffs are among the backers of Alfa Bank, a financial institution which the dossier accuses of involvement in Russian efforts to influence the 2016 US presidential election. In May, the same three Russian oligarchs filed a separate libel suit in a New York state court against BuzzFeed over its publication of the dossier."

The <u>Daily Caller</u> (10/4, Ross, 521K) reported that in the new suit, the Russian "executives claim that the allegations are false and that Fusion GPS recklessly distributed the dossier to media outlets for political purposes. Fusion was working at the time for a political ally of Hillary Clinton's." The complaint reads, in part, "Even though the Dossier contained unverified allegations, Defendants recklessly placed it beyond their control and allowed it to fall into the hands of media devoted to breaking news on the hottest subject of the day: the Trump candidacy."

Senate Intel Panel Still Looking For "Any Hint Of Collusion" Between Trump Camp, Russia. The Los Angeles Times (10/4, Cloud, 4.49M) reports that Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Richard Burr (R-NC) and ranking Democrat Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), on Wednesday said their panel "has not reached a conclusion whether the Trump campaign cooperated with Moscow during the 2016 election." Speaking at a news conference, Burr said, "The committee continues to look into all evidence to see if there was any hint of collusion. The issue of collusion is still open." With the remarks, says the Times, the panel leaders "distanc[ed] themselves from President Trump's claim that the issue is a 'hoax."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/4, Kelly, 8.62M) reports, "Despite the president's dismissal of possible collusion between his campaign and Russian officials as 'a hoax,'" the two lawmakers "said the panel is continuing to examine the evidence and has not yet made a conclusion." Burr "said he and Warner were not going to discuss their initial findings on that topic 'because we don't have any.' 'We have more work to do as it relates to collusion,' Burr said." Under the headline "Russia-Trump Campaign Collusion An 'Open' Issue, Says Senate Panel Chief," <u>Reuters</u> (10/4, Zengerle) offers a similar report.

The New York Times (10/4, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Burr and Warner also "warned political candidates to expect Russian operatives to try to sow chaos and manipulate upcoming elections in November and in 2018." The pair "broadly endorsed the conclusions of American spy agencies that said the Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin, directed a campaign of hacking and propaganda to disrupt the 2016 presidential election. 'I recommend every campaign and every elected official take this very seriously,' said Mr. Burr."

In an editorial, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/4, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) discusses the remarks made by Burr and Warner at Wednesday's news conference, saying that the lawmakers' comments boiled down to this: Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election; the threat of future Russian meddling in US elections remains a very serious concern; and there has apparently yet to be any evidence uncovered of collusion between Russia and the Trump camp. The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/4, 10.38M), meanwhile, editorializes that Wednesday's Burr-Warner news conference "raised more questions than it answered on the state of the committee's probe into Russian election interference. But it did make one thing clear: The investigation is far from over." The Post asserts, "Importantly, we learned that the committee continues to study whether collusion took place between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign."

Putin On Trump: "We Have Zero Personal Relationship." Bloomberg News (10/4, Fraher, Meyer, Arkhipov, 4.52M) reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday "said he has no personal ties to...Trump." Speaking in Moscow during the Russian Energy Week conference, Putin said of Trump, "We have zero personal relationship. We've only met once." Putin lauded Trump "as someone with a strong character who will 'never be anybody's hostage,' but said the relationship between Russia and the US has been poisoned by a domestic political fight in America." Bloomberg News adds that the two nations "have targeted each other in tit-for-tat diplomatic measures after America toughened sanctions on Russia for alleged interference in last year's US presidential election."

House Intelligence Committee To Interview Cohen, Power, Rhodes. <u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/4, House, 4.52M) reports that the House Intelligence Committee is preparing "to interview several key figures as



part of its Russia probe, including former US diplomat Samantha Power and Michael Cohen, an attorney for President Donald Trump." Power, is slated "to be interviewed privately by the panel on Oct. 13, according to two people familiar with the matter. The panel is also planning to interview Cohen and Ben Rhodes, a former Obama foreign policy adviser, in the next two weeks as part of its probe into Russian meddling in the US election."

Democratic Rep Speier: Russia Intends To Meddle In Future US Elections. Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) on Wednesday was asked on CNN's The Lead (10/4, 890K) if there is any evidence that anyone in the US helped Russian operatives determine where to target Facebook ads during the 2016 presidential election. Speier said, "We don't have any specific evidence. But these were sophisticated persons who were doing the targeting and I think it's very important for us to realize that the Russians were doing this for the long haul. This was not just for the 2016 election. They are building a universe of people they can go back to over and over again to try and influence." Speier added, "I can't underscore enough how important it is for us to stay focused on what they are doing long-term. They are building a network of people that they'll go back to whoever and over again to try and influence in the years to come."

WPost's Sullivan: "Weaponizing Trend" On Social Media "Couldn't Be More Damaging." In her Washington Post (10/4, Sullivan, 10.38M) column, Margaret Sullivan says that in the wake of the deadly shooting spree in Las Vegas, "Facebook and Google served up disinformation," promoting "rumors that not only named the wrong gunman but blamed his supposedly liberal politics. 'Social media has become totally weaponized,' Kara Swisher, co-founder of the technology news site Recode, said at a conference Tuesday." Sullivan says, "The Las Vegas tragedy is only the latest example. We're only now beginning to get a grip on social media's role during last year's presidential election," with reports indicating Russia targeted US voters with ads on Facebook. Sullivan adds, "At a time when the truth is under assault, including from the Oval Office, it's clear that the weaponizing trend couldn't be more damaging."

Son-In-Law Claims Manafort "Conspired To Mislead" Bankruptcy Court. USA Today (10/4, McCoy, Heath, 8.62M) reports that as federal investigators probe ex-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort's "controversial ties to Russia, his estranged son-in-law is accusing him of conspiring to mislead a federal bankruptcy court about real estate investments. Jeffrey Yohai made the allegation on Sept. 28, in a case that centers on four troubled California real estate investments that collectively total millions of dollars." USA Today says that Yohai's "legal declaration alleged that Manafort and other parties in the cases 'have all conspired to mislead this court...as to their true intentions and motivations." USA Today adds, "Manafort, his wife Kathleen and daughter Jessica, helped finance Yohai's redevelopment efforts by putting up approximately \$4.2 million, bankruptcy court records show." Manafort's "daughter, Jessica, filed for divorce from Yohai in March."

PENCE: US WILL LEAD IN SPACE AGAIN. In an op-ed for the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/4, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), Vice President Pence writes that the US' position as leader int he exploration of space is under threat. Pence adds that President Trump has revived the National Space Council, which will meet Thursday for the first time in nearly 25 years, and as its chairman, he will promise that the US will once again lead in space.

ADMINISTRATION TO PROPOSE REPEALING CLEAN POWER PLAN. Citing "a person familiar with the deliberations," <u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/4, Dlouhy, 4.52M) reports that in a proposal that could be released this week or next, the Administration will propose repealing the Clean Power Plan, "former President Barack Obama's signature plan for combating climate change by asserting that its expansive approach to addressing carbon emissions exceeds legal limits." In addition, the EPA will "issue a formal request for the public to offer ideas for a replacement to the Clean Power Plan that could be more modest in scope." The <u>New York Times</u> (10/4, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) cites an internal EPA document, which states, "The agency is issuing a proposal to repeal the rule," but does not explain how it "will justify to the courts the decision to eliminate the regulation."

ADMINISTRATION ORDERED TO ENFORCE OBAMA-ERA RESTRICTIONS ON METHANE EMISSIONS. In what the Los Angeles Times (10/4, Halper, 4.49M) describes as "the latest in a series of legal setbacks for the Trump Administration," US Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte in San Francisco on



Wednesday ordered the Trump Administration "to immediately enforce Obama-era restrictions on the release of potent methane emissions at oil and gas drilling operations on public land." The Interior Department was "delaying enforcement as it mapped out a strategy to rescind the new rules, which industry has complained are onerous," but California and other states "charged the administration is required by law to enforce the new rules."

ADMINISTRATION DECLINES TO LIST 25 SPECIES AS ENDANGERED. <u>USA Today</u> (10/4, Rice, 8.62M) reports that the Trump Administration on Wednesday "declined to list 25 species as endangered, noting that extra protection 'is not warranted at this time.'" USA Today says environmental groups are particularly concerned about the Pacific walrus, but the US Fish and Wildlife Service "reported that it can't say with certainty that the Pacific walrus is likely to become endangered, despite an extensive loss of Arctic Sea ice due to global warming," a decision that was "applauded" by Alaska's Republican congressional delegation.

KUSHNER, IVANKA TRUMP FINED FOR FILING FINANCIAL REPORTS LATE. McClatchy (10/3, Kumar, Wieder, 67K) reports that President Trump's daughter Ivanka, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, both of whom serve as unpaid senior advisers to the President, "were both fined \$200 for missing deadlines to submit financial reports required by government ethics rules, according to documents and interviews." This marks the second time Kushner "has been fined for late filing as part of his months-long process of divesting pieces of his vast business empire to serve in the White House, a highly unusual occurrence."

OBAMA'S FHFA DIRECTOR USED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AS CHAUFFEURS, PERSONAL TRAVEL ASSISTANTS. The Daily Caller (10/4, White, 521K) cites a report Tuesday from Bloomberg which said that former President Obama's FHFA Director Mel Watt, "was never punished last year for using federal employees as chauffeurs and personal travel assistants." According to the report, Watt "directed FHFA employees to drive him and his wife to the airport for personal trips," and "made them book flights unrelated to government business, the agency's inspector general said in a December 2016 report." The IG report said that Watt "directed staff to make these arrangements for him and his family nearly 30 times," adding that the requests were "inconsistent with standards of ethical conduct."

TRUMP JUDICIAL NOMINEE ASKED ABOUT DISPLAYING CONFEDERATE PORTRAIT IN HIS CHAMBERS. The Washington Times (10/4, Swoyer, 541K) reports that during a confirmation hearing for Judge Liles Clifton Burke, President Trump's nominee to be a trial judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Sen. Mazie Hirono "demanded to know why the judge had a portrait of Jefferson Davis hanging in his chambers." Burke said, "I absolutely reject racism in all forms, but the reason that I hung that has really nothing to do with my views on race and everything to do with its historical significance." Hirono asked Burke "if he thinks Confederate symbols should be removed from public grounds," but Burke "demurred, saying the issue is likely to come before him as a judge and he shouldn't voice his personal opinion in order to remain impartial."

MASHABLE: WHITE HOUSE SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR MAY BE AUTHOR OF SOME OF TRUMP'S TWEETS. Writing for Mashable (10/4, 609K), Jason Abbruzzese said that Dan Scavino Jr., "who runs social media for President Donald Trump, accidentally tweeted out an attack on NBC News from both his account as well as Trump's account on Wednesday. Scavino quickly deleted the tweet," but the post "on Trump's account is still up." Abbruzzese said, "It has been generally assumed that Trump sends most of his own tweets. Trump may have still dictated this tweet – it certainly has that classic Trump tone – and Scavino might have just accidentally sent from both accounts."

Trump The Most Followed World Leader On Twitter. Politico (10/4, Samuelsohn, 3.6M) reported that Trump "bested Pope Francis and took the top slot this weekend among current world leaders on his favorite method of communication: Twitter. The @realDonaldTrump personal account crossed 39.7 million followers to overtake the nine different language accounts that the pope uses, making" Trump "the most-followed world leader, according to measurements kept by public relations firm Burson-Marsteller. Pope Francis, with 39.5 million followers," dropped "to second behind Trump when adding up the papal accounts that send the same messages in" a number of languages. Politico added that Trump "also



commanded the fifth- and sixth-largest audiences among world leaders on Twitter – with 20.5 million and 15.6 million followers – on the @potus and @WhiteHouse accounts he inherited in January." <u>USA Today</u> (10/4, Fair, 8.62M) report that Former President Obama's "Twitter feed, @barackobama, still has more followers than Trump – 95.6 million as of Wednesday."

MOORE MEETS WITH BANNON, ALABAMA HOUSE MEMBERS DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. Politico (10/4, Kim, Strauss, 3.6M) reported that ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore (R-AL), who last week defeated appointed Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL) in the GOP Senate runoff, on Wednesday visited Washington, where he "met with former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon and House members of the Alabama congressional delegation." Politico said that Moore's "meetings did not include sit-downs with Strange, [Senate Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell or GOP Sen. Richard Shelby, a close Strange ally from Alabama – and his visit to Washington seemed to catch senior Senate Republicans off guard." Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX) told Politico, "I talked to him on the phone and told him I look forward to visiting with him when he's here but I didn't know he was here today."

Under the headline "Roy Moore's Disruption Of Washington Has Already Begun, And More Is On The Way," the Washington Post (10/4, Sullivan, 10.38M) says that Moore "didn't travel to Washington on Wednesday to kiss and make up with the Republican leaders who opposed his" bid, but instead "came to continue the revolt. Moore didn't meet with [McConnell] or stop by the White House to make nice with the forces that tried to defeat him." Rather, he met with Bannon "and spent time in the office of a House Republican from Alabama. The latest skirmish in the escalating war for the soul of the GOP was more than awkward: It was a window into what might be coming for Republicans next year, when hard-right conservatives emboldened by Moore's" win "are likely to target still more establishment incumbents."

Pro-Trump Super PAC Calls On McConnell To Spend Big On Moore's Bid. The Washington Times (10/4, McLaughlin, 541K) reports that the "pro-Trump" super PAC Great America PAC "is calling on...McConnell to put his financial muscle behind" Moore in the special election for the former seat of Attorney General Sessions. Moore defeated last week unseated Strange, who was backed by "McConnell and the aligned Senate Leadership Fund, which invested millions into bolstering Mr. Strange's bid and tearing down his rivals." Said Great America PAC chief Ed Rollins, "The best way for Mitch McConnell to atone for this mistake is for him and his allies at the Senate Leadership Fund to put their money where their mouth is and provide Judge Moore with the same level of financial support in the general election as they gave to Strange in last week's Republican runoff."

Moore Facebook Page Shared "Inflammatory" Posts On NFL Protests, Russia's Anti-Gay Laws. On its website, CNN (10/4, Kaczynski, McDermott, 33.59M) reported that Moore's Facebook page "in February included a shared image of a group of black men standing on a destroyed police car during the 2015 Baltimore riots. Overlaying the image was text that read, 'Want to stop riots? Play the National Anthem. They'll all sit down.' The post – originally shared by Moore's wife with the caption 'I doubt it with these people-but worth a try?' – is one of many inflammatory posts shared on the Republican nominee's Facebook, which is now used to promote his Senate campaign." Drawing from the CNN story, The Hill (10/4, Bowden, 1.68M) reported that Moore's Facebook page "also shared an article from a conservative website, BarbWire.com that defends Russia's efforts to crack down on the country's LGBT community as a 'strong stance in defense of traditional family values."

GRIMM REPORTEDLY WINS BANNON'S BACKING IN PRIMARY CHALLENGE TO DONOVAN. The New York Times (10/4, Goldmacher, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that ex-Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY), a convicted felon who is mounting a primary challenge to Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY), on Wednesday won the backing of Steve Bannon, President Trump's former chief strategist. The pair "met at Mr. Bannon's Capitol Hill townhouse on Wednesday afternoon, three days after Mr. Grimm announced" his bid. Michael Caputo, "a Grimm adviser who also served as an adviser to Mr. Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign," told the Times, "We're joining the Bannon portfolio of Republican challengers to anti-Trump Republican congressmen." The Times adds that political strategist Andy Surabian, "who works closely with Mr. Bannon and who was at Wednesday's meeting, said, 'Steve likes the fact that Grimm is a straight-talking, fire-breathing, conservative populist."



The New York Daily News (10/4, Durkin, 3.61M) reports that Caputo "posted a photo of Grimm and Bannon on Twitter Wednesday with the message 'Game on. #MAGA' – an abbreviation for Trump's slogan 'Make America great again.'" Speaking with the Daily News, Caputo said, "We spent the afternoon at Steve's office strategizing for the campaign and how we're going to cooperate in the months ahead." The Daily News adds that Grimm "spent eight months in prison after pleading guilty to tax fraud at a Manhattan restaurant he owned."

Of note, neither the Times nor Daily News reports quote Bannon as saying he officially endorsed Grimm. And the New York Post (10/4, Schultz, Campanile, 4.31M) reports, "Asked if Bannon offered his support to Grimm, Caputo said, 'Everything is on the table.'" However, Politico (10/4, Isenstadt, 3.6M) reported, "A person close to Bannon said the two met for about 30 minutes, and that the former White House aide had decided to back Grimm."

WPOST-SCHAR SCHOLL POLL: DEMOCRAT NORTHAM LEADS GILLESPIE 53%-40%. On its front page, the Washington Post (10/5, A1, Schneider, Clement, 10.38M) reports that a Washington Post-Schar School poll of 720 Virginia likely voters, taken Sept. 28-Oct. 2, shows Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) leading ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie (R) 53%-40% in this fall's race to succeed term-limited Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D-VA). The Post says, "The advantage is similar to a Post-Schar School poll this spring but larger than in other public polls of likely voters released over the past month, most of which found Northam up by single digits. But the race is still fluid, with a sizable number of likely voters – one in four – saying they could change their mind before Nov. 7."

In Gillespie-Northam Race, Libertarian Hyra Could Impact A Close Outcome. The AP (10/4, Suderman) reports that Cliff Hyra, "the long-shot Libertarian candidate in this year's closely watched" gubernatorial contest, "is polling at just a few percentage points in most polls. That's not enough to have a chance to win, but it could be enough to alter what's likely to be a close contest between" Gillespie and Northam. The AP adds, "It's unclear who may benefit, and some supporters of both Gillespie and Northam have expressed concern that Hyra could pull critical votes away from their preferred candidate."

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS IN NO HURRY TO ADMIT GOP REP. CURBELO. McClatchy (10/4, Clark, 67K) reports, "In a Capitol riven by partisan" divides, Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) "says he thought it might help matters to work across the aisle with his Democratic Hispanic colleagues. In February, he met with the chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and asked about joining," but is "still waiting for an invitation." Speaking on Wednesday with McClatchy, Curbelo said, "I just don't understand what's so difficult. They have to decide if this is the Congressional Hispanic Caucus or if it's the Congressional Hispanic country club for liberals." Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM), the CHC chair, "called it a 'good approach' to start with allowing Curbelo to sit on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, a non-profit affiliated organization, before expanding the caucus." Lujan Grisham told McClatchy, "The caucus really has to have a discussion because we talk about legislative strategy that can sometimes be partisan."

MENENDEZ TRIAL: PROSECUTION FOCUSES ON MELGEN DONATIONS MADE TO SUPER PAC. In continuing coverage of the corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and his longtime friend and political donor, eye doctor Salomon Melgen, the AP (10/4, Porter) reports that the prosecutors "presented evidence Wednesday that" Melgen donated "\$600,000 to political organizations that supported" Menendez, "part of what they contend was a two-way arrangement in which" the lawmaker "offered his political influence in return." The AP says Melgen "made two contributions of \$300,000 each, in June and October of 2012, a fundraiser for a Democratic political action committee testified." The AP adds, "Other witnesses have described meetings between Menendez and officials in the executive branch on issues" of concern to Melgen "surrounding Medicare reimbursement policies and port security in the Dominican Republic."

Politico (10/4, Friedman, 3.6M) reported, "Two days after writing a second \$300,000 check to a Democratic super PAC, a donation earmarked to" aid "Menendez's 2012 reelection" bid, "Melgen sent an email to one of the group's top fundraisers bringing up his \$8.9 million Medicare dispute in which he was allegedly trying to get officials to intervene." Politico said, "The October 2012 email Melgen authored was



sent to Jake Perry, then the managing fundraising consultant for Majority PAC, a super PAC tied to then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid." Perry "testified that he had not asked Melgen for either donation, and did not know who had. But both checks had come in an envelope sent by New Jersey attorney Donald Scarinci, Perry said. Scarinci is one of Menendez's closest friends."

The North Jersey (NJ) Media Group (10/4, Pugliese, 140K) reports that Perry, "who had flown on Melgen's private jet in early 2012 to visit the doctor at his home in a Dominican Republic resort, described Melgen as 'very fun' even if his broken English was difficult to understand. Prosecutors allege in their indictment that the checks were bribes to get Menendez to lobby Obama administration officials about a \$9 million billing dispute Melgen had pending with Medicare."

Bloomberg News (10/4, Voreacos, Weinberg, 4.52M) reports that while prosecutors allege Menendez "intervened in a Medicare billing dispute on behalf of" Melgen, "who rewarded his help with bribes of campaign donations and luxury travel," the senator "maintains that he was simply trying to fix a bad policy. On Wednesday, testimony from an aide to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid appeared to bolster Menendez's defense. Reid also believed the Medicare billing policy at the heart of the billing dispute was confusing, his former aide, Katherine Leone," testified.

Sources Say Prosecution Not Planning To Call Reid To Testify. Meanwhile, the Washington Post (10/4, Barrett, Maimon, 10.38M) reports that the prosecution isn't planning "to call...Reid as a witness in their case, despite his presence at a key meeting in the corruption case, according to people familiar with the matter. The decision not to call Reid as a witness reflects the likely double-edged nature of his testimony." While Reid took part "in a meeting in which Menendez pressured federal health officials to be more considerate of" Melgen, "Reid has also publicly praised Menendez, even after being drawn into the investigation. It's unclear if Menendez's legal team might call him as a defense witness."

EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY, GOP REP. MURPHY TO RETIRE. The AP (10/4, Levy) reports that Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) on Wednesday announced that he won't seek reelection next year, "amid tawdry revelations of an extramarital affair in which the anti-abortion lawmaker urged his mistress to get an abortion when he thought she was pregnant." The eight-term lawmaker "said in a brief statement through his office that he will 'take personal time to seek help as my family and I continue to work through our personal difficulties." The AP says that Murphy's district, the PA18, "is a safe Republican seat, with Republican Donald Trump beating Democrat Hillary Clinton by a margin of three-to-two in last November's presidential election." Roll Call (10/4, Bowman, 134K) reported, "Inside Elections with Nathan L. Gonzales rates the district Solid Republican. President Donald Trump won the race by 20 points in 2016, according to calculations by Daily Kos Elections."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (10/4, Mauriello, Potter, 516K) reports that Murphy "faced a storm of criticism after the Post-Gazette reported on documents that suggested problems in his office and that he had urged a woman with whom he was having an extra-marital relationship to get an abortion. Mr. Murphy has been a strongly pro-life politician." The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (10/4, Olson, 312K) reports that Murphy's "retirement means Pennsylvania is expected to have at least four open US House seats on the ballot next year, all of which are held by Republicans." Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA) is challenging Sen. Bob Casey (R); Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) is retiring; and Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA) "has been tapped – but not yet confirmed ——-to become the Trump administration's drug czar."

Politico (10/4, Bade, Schneider, Bresnahan, 3.6M) reported that "Murphy met privately with Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) before his retirement announcement, as well as with Pennsylvania GOP Reps. Bill Shuster and Charlie Dent. A number of top Republicans have said privately that Murphy should retire or resign in light of the scandal." The Washington Times (10/4, Richardson, 541K) also reports on Murphy's announcement.

POLL SHOWS MARYLAND GOV. HOGAN COMFORTABLY LEADING DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGERS. The Washington Post (10/4, Wiggins, 10.38M) reports that a Mason-Dixon poll of 625 Maryland voters, taken Sept. 27-30, shows Gov. Larry Hogan (R) leading a field of Democratic challengers in hypothetical 2018 matchups. According to the poll, the Post says, Prince George's County



Executive Rushern L. Baker III (D) "trailed Hogan by just seven points"; Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz (D) "trailed Hogan by 13 points"; ex-NAACP chief Ben Jealous (D) "was down by 16 points"; and state Sen. Richard S. Madaleno Jr. (D) "trailed by 19 points." Several Democrats in the race were tested in hypothetical general election matchups. A smaller sample of 400 Maryland Democratic voters showed Baker leading the Democratic primary with 28%, followed by Kamenetz at 11%, Jealous at 10%, and the other candidates lagging further behind. The Baltimore Sun (10/4, Cox, 706K) reports that while Although Hogan leads, "pollsters noted he is below the 50 percent threshold generally considered 'safe' for incumbents."

UM REACHES SETTLEMENT IN FOIA SUIT OVER SCHLISSEL EMAILS ON TRUMP. The Detroit News (10/4, Kozlowski, 725K) reports that the University of Michigan "has settled a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit involving the release of emails by President Mark Schlissel mentioning President Donald Trump." The News says, "The settlement was reached Wednesday with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy," which made a request "in November for what turned out to be 11 Schlissel-written emails" that "it said the university president made" about Trump and his supporters. The center "waited 100 days for UM to fulfill the request and sued the university when it didn't respond." UM "released four emails on the same day that the Mackinac Center filed the lawsuit, center officials said. Among the seven newly released emails is one from Aug. 24, 2016, in which Schlissel" wrote, "I would feel awful if Trump won the election and I was too afraid of appearing political to make any effort to encourage our students to thoughtfully participate" in the election.

COLUMNIST: TRUMP WILL BE REELECTED "IF THE LEFT KEEPS CALLING HIM A RACIST."

Under the heading "Donald Trump Will Win In 2020 If The Left Keeps Calling Him A Racist," Robert Robb wrote in his Arizona Republic (10/2, 968K) column that while he once was convinced "there was no way Donald Trump would" win reelection, "I now believe that the left will re-elect Trump. The ruction over NFL players taking a knee during the national anthem illustrates the point," with the left claiming that "since the players were protesting racial injustice, Trump was endorsing racial injustice by criticizing them." Robb said, "The left has talked itself into believing that Trump's alleged appeals to white racism were what put him over the top," though analysts "have pointed out that the actual difference was made by people in industrial states who previously had voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, but switched to Trump over Hillary Clinton in 2016. Hard to attribute those decisions to white racism. Nevertheless, the left now interprets all of Trump's actions through the prism of perceived appeals to white racism." USA Today (10/4, Robb, 8.62M) runs Robb's column two days after it was published in the Arizona Republic.

SENATORS UNVEIL BIPARTISAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM LEGISLATION. Politico (10/4, Kim, 3.6M) reports that a group of "influential" senators "rolled out a sweeping bill to overhaul the nation's criminal justice system and sentencing laws, reviving a bipartisan effort that had been left for dead last year." The proposed legislation, spearheaded by Sens. Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Richard Durbin (D-IL), "is aimed at easing sentences for some non-violent offenders, such as for drug crimes, while beefing up other tough-on-crime laws." The bill would eliminate the three-strike mandatory life sentence for some repeat drug offenders, "but would also allow some people with previous convictions for serious violent and serious drug felonies to face enhanced penalties." Grassley "did not lay out a timetable for marking up the bill, a version of which sailed through his committee 15-5 during the last Congress but never made it to the floor due to objections from conservative law-and-order Republicans in the conference."

JUDGE ACCEPTS ARPAIO PARDON. The Washington Times (10/4, Dinan, 541K) reports that US District Judge Susan Bolton "officially accepted President Trump's pardon of former Sheriff Joe Arpiao" on Wednesday, and "rejected the demand of Democrats and anti-Trump lawyers to reject the pardon and enforce the contempt-of-court conviction." The Justice Department "had sided with Mr. Arpaio, saying the president's pardon should end the matter." Judge Bolton had convicted Arpaio in July "and the former lawman was fighting her decision, asking her for a retrial and promising an appeal." President Trump "short-circuited the issue with his pardon."

MANHATTAN DA RETURNS TRUMP ATTORNEY'S DONATION AFTER QUESTIONS ABOUT ENDING PROBE. The New York Times (10/4, McKinley, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr., "last week returned a five-year-old campaign contribution



from President Trump's personal lawyer after journalists raised questions about Mr. Vance's 2012 decision to end a criminal investigation into fraud allegations against" Trump and his children. The Times adds, "the investigation had delved into allegations that" Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr. "had lied to buyers of units at the Trump SoHo" a "luxury condominium-hotel" in Manhattan, "about how many apartments had been sold, painting a rosy picture of sales at the struggling project." In 2010, Vance's office "started looking into whether laws had been broken." Vance (D) "said on Wednesday his decision to drop the investigation in August 2012 had nothing to do with donations the lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, made to his campaign," and he said "he had determined after two years of investigation that his office could not prove a crime had been committed."

AFTER CHARLOTTESVILLE, ACLU BRACES FOR NEXT ALT-RIGHT CASE. The New York Times (10/4, Goldstein, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Howard Simon "has been leading chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union" for decades, and "has helped the Ku Klux Klan rally at a state capitol and defended the right of a Florida pastor to burn a Quran," but "he cannot recall any case that has provoked as much soul-searching within the A.C.L.U. as the organization's decision in August to sue on behalf of a man organizing a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va.," which ended in "a violent melee that left one woman dead and dozens injured." Since then, "a question has hung over the organization: What will it do the next time the alt-right seeks the A.C.L.U.'s help?" That question "that has cut fault lines though the A.C.L.U., with a group of staff members sending an open letter taking issue with the organization's longstanding work of defending white supremacists in free speech cases."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: GORSUCH'S QUESTIONS SUGGEST SUPPORT FOR PROTECTIONS FOR CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS. The Wall Street Journal (10/4, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Justice Neil Gorsuch on Wednesday sharply questioned government arguments that criminal defendants forfeit their rights to appeal after agreeing to a plea bargain. According to the Journal, since his confirmation Gorsuch has usually adhered firmly to the conservative side, but Wednesday's arguments suggest that, like his late predecessor, Justice Antonin Scalia, Gorsuch's legal views could lead him to split with fellow conservatives and support procedural protections for criminal defendants.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES WRESTLE WITH DC BACHELOR PARTY CASE. USA Today (10/4, Wolf, 8.62M) reports that Supreme Court justices "showed their age Wednesday when confronted with the tawdry details of a modern-day bachelor party." According to USA, "the question before them was" whether DC police officers "have enough evidence to charge 21 party-goers at a vacant home in 2008 with trespassing," and if not, whether the officers "deserve qualified immunity because they thought they were doing the right thing." USA adds that Justice Stephen Breyer, 79, "said it's no longer uncommon for young people to show up for a party without knowing all the details – as opposed to during 'the Middle Ages, with which I am more familiar." The case "is important because the justices will be determining what police can and cannot do when confronted with similar situations." In the case at bar, "a federal jury awarded \$680,000 to party-goers who sued the district, and a federal appeals court upheld the verdict."

WARREN ACCUSES EQUIFAX OF PROFITING FROM BREACH. ABC World News Tonight (10/4, story 10, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that while questioning former Equifax CEO Richard Smith during a Senate hearing Wednesday, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) accused Equifax of profiting from its security breach, "saying Equifax could make more than \$200 million in revenue if just one million customers buy credit monitoring after the breach."

SAMUELSON: SURVEY OFFERS MIXED IMAGE OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS' RESILIENCE. In his Washington Post (10/4, 10.38M) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that a recent Federal Reserve survey measuring Americans' finances offered two good conclusions and one less optimistic conclusion. Median family income "rose 9.6 percent, from \$48,100 to \$52,700," and most American families "have reduced their debt burdens," with the share of families needing to devote more than 40 percent of their income to paying interest on loans dropping from 11 percent in 2007 to 7 percent in 2016. Despite recent gains, however, minorities "lag well behind whites economically," with persistent gaps in median income and net worth. Samuelson concludes that while the recent gains are "undeniable," there are "limits to consumers' resilience."



SAN JOSE MAYOR: SUBSIDIES FOR FAVORED CORPORATIONS ARE BAD DEAL FOR

TAXPAYERS. In a <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/4, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) op-ed, Sam Liccardo, the Democratic mayor of San Jose, California, explains that he is not seeking to offer subsidies to attract Amazon to build its headquarters in San Jose because subsidies are a bad deal for taxpayers. Liccardo argues that jobs brought to an area by a company do not produce revenues commensurate with public expenditures and that subsidies tend to reinforce decisions already made, except at taxpayer expense.

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 26 Oct 2017 13:13:38 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR THURSDAY, OCT.

26, 2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 26, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

NEW MEXICO'S MEDICAID COSTS PROJECTED TO INCREASE. The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (10/25, McKay, 217K) reports that New Mexico could face \$82 million in additional Medicaid costs next year, in part because Congress has not reauthorized funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which would cost the state an extra \$31 million to cover those children. The cost projections were announced Wednesday as New Mexico lawmakers gathered in preparation for the January legislative session.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTHERS IN TEXAS FACE CRISIS OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATHS.

The Los Angeles Times (10/26, Simmons, 4.49M) reports that African American women in Texas are dying of pregnancy and childbirth-related causes at "stunningly high rates," in one of "America's most confounding public health problems." Texas' Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Department of State Health Services discovered in a 2016 report that "black mothers accounted for 11.4% of Texas births in 2011 and 2012, but 28.8% of pregnancy-related deaths." The piece profiles a 21-year old mother who passed away due to an infection. The article examines some potential causes, including obesity, poverty, diabetes, caesareanbirths, delayed prenatal care, cardiac events, drug overdoses and disorders associated with hypertension.

TRUMP ATTENDS HARVEY RECOVERY BRIEFING BEFORE DALLAS GOP FUNDRAISING EVENT.

Coverage of President Trump's visit to Texas for a briefing on hurricane recovery efforts and a Republican fundraiser is negative, with reports saying that the briefing was added to justify the cost of a political trip, and that Trump praised his own efforts at the briefing. The Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times (10/25, Moritz, 141K) reports that the President "arrived in Dallas on Wednesday to a cheering welcome, and later by sign-carrying protesters assailing his truthfulness, where he met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for an update on the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort as a prelude to an afternoon of politicking." During remarks at the briefing, Trump "said he looked forward to seeing plans to address flooding in Houston 'on a more permanent basis."

The Washington Post (10/25, Phillips, 10.38M) reports that Trump also "praise[d]...himself and his government...then suggested that Houston recovery officials take a look at a special kind of sheet rock that could prevent another Harvey." Trump said, "They use it in bathtubs and showers, and water has no impact on it." The Hill (10/25, Greenwood, 1.68M) reports that Trump said that it "is the same material used around bathtubs and other areas exposed to moisture. Greenboard is a water-resistant drywall."

The <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (10/25, Gillman, 984K) reports that though "adoring fans cheered him at Love Field and 200 well-heeled donors rubbed elbows with him downtown," if Trump "was hoping for a respite from the venomous atmosphere in Washington, his day trip to Dallas offered little. Catcalls from hundreds of protesters filtered into the swank fund-raiser. 'Go home Cheeto!' they yelled, holding signs that read 'Liar liar' and 'shame.'"

The Los Angeles Times (10/25, Bennett, 4.49M) reports that Trump was in Dallas "for a Republican



fundraiser and political reception," and had "added a brief meeting about hurricane recovery efforts continuing on the Gulf Coast about 250 miles away." Newsweek (10/25, 991K) reports that the briefing was added in "an apparent effort to have the political visit subsidized by taxpayer dollars." The event "cost attendees \$2,700 a ticket and an extra \$35,000 to take a photo with Trump." The AP (10/25) reports that the event was "expected to raise \$4 million."

Politico's Alex Isenstadt <u>tweeted</u>, "Trump raised \$4.5 mil for 2020 reelection tonight in Dallas. Big donors present included Andy Beale, Harold Hamm, Tom Hicks Sr." Mark Knoller of CBS News <u>tweeted</u> that "tickets range[d] from \$2700 to \$100,000 per person." The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/25, Boyer, 541K) and the <u>WFAA-TV</u> Dallas (10/25, 297K) website also have brief reports.

NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

+ Judge Refuses To Order Trump Administration To Pay Cost-Sharing Reduction Payments.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + Trump To Order Hargan To Declare Opioid Crisis A Public Health Emergency.
- + Detained Teenage Immigrant Has Court-Permitted Abortion, Ending Legal Battle.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + <u>Democratic Senators Call For President Trump To Allow HHS To Negotiate Price Of Naloxone Auto-Injector.</u>
- + Volkow: Overcoming Opioid Epidemic Requires Addressing Environmental Factors Exacerbating Issue.
- + New York City Church Helping NIH Recruit Diverse Body Of "All Of Us" Study Participants.
- + NIH Research Project Finds Participants Reluctant To Share Medical Data.
- + FDA Commissioner Calls For Greater Use Of Medication-Assisted Treatment For Opioid Addiction.
- + FDA Declines To Approve Ataluren For Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
- + FDA Clears Tesaro's Intravenous Treatment For Chemotherapy-Related Nausea, Vomiting,
- + Hurricane Maria Still Disrupting Access To Medical Supplies.
- + CDC Launches Milestone Tracker App To Help ID Children's Developmental Delays.
- + CDC's Vaccine Panel Gives Preferential Recommendation To New Shingles Vaccine Over Old One.
- + CDC Advisory Panel Recommends Third Mumps Vaccine Dose For At-Risk Individuals.
- + CMS Expected To Take Steps To Pay For Remote Monitoring.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + CBO Finds Alexander-Murray Would Save US \$3.8 Billion Over Ten Years.
- + President's Failure To Endorse Alexander-Murray Puts It On "Back Burner."
- + Schatz-Lujan Proposes Medicaid "Public Option."
- + Administration Will Not Issue Projection Of Open Enrollment Enrollees.
- + Analysis: Healthcare.gov "Silver" Plans Have Average Premium Increase Of 34 Percent.
- + Maryland Approves Rate Increases Up To 76 Percent.
- + Massachusetts Exchange Spokesman Urges Residents To Shop Around.
- + Michigan To See Premium Increases Averaging 26.9 Percent.
- + Rhode Island Premiums Will Increase An Average Of 18 To 20 Percent.
- + Anthem Projects 70 Percent Decline In Individual Enrollments In 2018.
- + Nearly 40 Percent Of Voters Believe ACA Has Been Fully Or Partially Repealed, Poll Says.
- + Industry Pushing Repeal Of ACA Taxes.
- + Online Tool Estimates Cost Of Birth Control, Sends Bill To White House, HHS.
- + CNN Analysis: Trump Healthcare Policies Harm Industrial Midwest.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:



- + Lawmakers Threaten To Subpoena DEA For Opioid Information.
- + Federal Spending Targeting Opioids Starting To Take Effect, But Hurdles Remain For Some State Efforts.
- + Senate Democrats Seek \$45 Billion To Combat Opioid Epidemic.
- + Rhode Island Physician Pleads Guilty To Opioid Kickback Scheme Linked To Insys.
- + US Probing Purdue Over Opioid Relief Claim.
- + Maryland Medical Society Recommends Against Automated Opioid Prescribing.
- + North Carolina Governor Says Opioid Crisis Needs Bipartisan Solution.
- + Opinion: Doctors, Insurers Must Revise Policies To Discourage Patients From Seeking Opioids.
- + Op-Ed: Opioid Emergency May Make Life Untenable For Chronic Pain Patients.
- + USA Today Calls For Action To Stem Spread Of Fentanyl.

MENTAL ILLNESS:

+ <u>Untreated Depression, Anxiety May Be Linked To More Time In Hospital Stays For Patients With Advanced Cancer, Study Suggests.</u>

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Jurors In Chin Trial Acquit Him Of Murder, Convict Him Of Racketeering, Mail Fraud.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Wisconsin Bill Would Require Notice For Women With Dense Breast Tissue.
- + New Rankings Show Worst VA Hospitals Last Year Remain The Worst.
- + Massachusetts' Healthcare Proposal Pits Large Hospitals Against Community Hospitals.
- + Physicians May Prescribe More, And More Expensive, Drugs When They Receive Gifts From Pharmaceutical Companies.
- + Ohio House Committee Passes Ban On Down Syndrome Abortions.
- + Community Health Workers Used In New York Neighborhoods To Provide Alternative To Hospital Care.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS:

+ Colorado Needs 1,200 More Certified Foster Families, Report Finds.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

- + Study Finds Arsenic In 65 Percent Of Baby Food Products.
- + LAT: GMO-Free Labels Confuse Consumers.
- + Chinese Citizens Indicted For Fraud After Smuggling Supplements Containing Illegal Stimulant.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS:

- + WPost A1 Analysis: California's "Exorbitant Housing Costs" Drive Hepatitis A Crisis.
- + Health Experts Worry Puerto Rico Could See Waterborne Illness Outbreak Due To Maria.
- + Legionnaires' Disease Infects 12 In NYC.
- + Pennsylvania Report Finds Falling Fatality Rate Among State's Sepsis Patients.
- + <u>Union Sues To Prevent Essentia Health From Firing Workers Who Refuse Flu Shots.</u>

MEDICARE:

- + Four Members Of Congress Introduce Bills That Would Allow Medicare To Negotiate Drug Prices.
- + Congress Considering Solution To Medicare Enrollment Confusion.
- + Opinion: Home Healthcare Proposal Will Cut Medicare For Seniors.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Analysts Say Managed Care Model Could Cut New Hampshire's Costs In Half For Some Health Plans.
- + Two-Thirds Of Utah Voters Support Ballot Initiative For Medicaid Expansion, Poll Says.
- + Funding For Children's Health Insurance In Texas Could Run Out Sooner Because Of Hurricane Harvey.
- + Pennsylvania Senate Passes Bill To Bar CHIP Coverage For Gender Reassignment Surgery.
- + Hiltzik: Congress' Failure To Renew CHIP Is "Shameful."
- + Opinion: Massachusetts' Medicaid Waiver Request For Formulary May Reduce Access To Medications.



HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + Most Americans Don't Believe Owning A Gun Increases Suicide Risk, Survey Says.
- + Number Of Americans With High Total Cholesterol Levels Decreased In 2016, CDC Data Show.
- + Study Details New RNA-Based Editing Tool For Reversible Gene Editing.
- + Eating Alone May Be Linked To Higher Risk Of Metabolic Syndrome In Some People, Study Suggests.
- + Maryland Reports Lowest Level Of Childhood Lead Poisoning Cases On Record.
- + Cuomo Announces Study Into High Cancer Rates In Four New York Areas.
- + Researchers Unveil Virtual Human Brain Cells.
- + Triclosan 6 Appears To Accumulate In Toothbrushes Over Time, Is Released Into A Person's Mouth After They Switch To A Different Type Of Toothpaste.
- + Researchers Say Type 3c Diabetes May Be More Common Than Previously Thought.
- + Human Fear Response Makes Long-Term Risk Planning Difficult.
- + Op-Ed Urges Government To Fund Gun Violence Studies Like It Does Cancer Research.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Trump: Democrats' Role In Russia Dossier Creation "A Disgrace."
- + Trump Would "Love To Do A DACA Deal," But Would Require Wall In Exchange.
- + Trump Says Border Wall Will Be "Very Effective."
- + WPost Analysis: Steinle Murder "Rallying Cry" For Trump's "Hard-Line Immigration Policies."
- + Lawmakers Question No-Bid Contract To Rebuild Puerto Rico's Power Lines.
- + Administration To Install Emergency Manager At Puerto Rico Power Authority.
- + AP Analysis: Recovery Highlights Puerto Rico's Inequality.
- + ICE, National Guard Work Together On Puerto Rico Aid Efforts.
- + Chef Andrés To Scale Back His Effort To Feed Puerto Ricans.
- + Trump: Tax Cuts Will Create "So Many Jobs."
- + On Tax Reform, Trump Signals Openness To Negotiating 401(k) Provisions.
- + Ross: Best Way To For Tax Cuts Is Economic Growth.
- + Brady: Deal In Works To Preserve Property Tax Deduction.
- + Paul Says Elimination Of Deductions Could Result In A Tax Increase.
- + Ryan: Tax Cut Plan Entering "Class 5 Rapids."
- + GOP Concerns Over Eliminating SALT Deduction Could Complicate House Budget Vote.
- + Summers Offers Five Suggestions For Tax Reform.
- + Administration May Back Gas Tax Hike To Pay For Infrastructure Plan.
- + NYTimes Analysis: Kelly Echoes Trump On Key Issues And Style.
- + Trump Says He Recalled Soldier's Name "Right From The Beginning" During Condolence Call.
- + Dismissing Flake, Corker Criticism, Trump Says There's "Great Unity" In GOP.
- + Politico Analysis: Trump Cites His Ivy League Education As Proof Of His Civility.
- + Trump Praises Yellen As Sources Say Cohn Won't Be Named Fed Chairman.
- + Bloomberg Analysis: Administration Not Worried About Appearing To Help Banking Industry.
- + WSJournal Analysis: Trump Team Seeks To Foster Economic Growth By Removing Regulations.
- + New Home Sales At Highest Point In A Decade.
- + Trump Tweets He Will Release Last JFK Files Thursday.
- + Trump Asked Senators About Changing Denali's Name Back To Mt. McKinley.
- + DOJ Agrees To Settle Lawsuits Over IRS Scrutiny Of Tea Party Groups.
- + DOJ Asks To Argue For Christian Baker In Same-Sex Wedding Cake Case Before High Court.
- + Private Prison Company Has Sought To Align Itself With Trump Administration.
- + FCC To Scale Back Limits On Media Ownership.
- + Since 2000, Non-Citizen Immigrants May Have Cast 544 Illegal Ballots In Pennsylvania.
- + Poll: Gillespie Leads Northam 41%-33%; 27% Undecided.
- + Cornyn Endorses Moore In Alabama Senate Race.
- + Poll: 68% Say Trump Was Wrong To Call For Firing Of NFL Players Over Anthem Protests.
- + Hawley Backs GOP Tax Cuts, Slams McCaskill.
- + Potential Bannon Target Wicker Says He'll Seek Reelection Next Year.
- + Biden Yet To Decide On 2020 White House Run.
- + Some See Presidential Aspirations In Greitens' Iowa Visit.



- + Poll: Democrat Murphy Leads Guadagno 57%-37% In New Jersey Governor's Race.
- + Menendez Aide: Gifts From Melgen Weren't Disclosed Because They Came From A Friend.
- + Mitt Romney Backs Ahlquist In Idaho GOP Gubernatorial Primary.
- + Top GOP Donors Form Group Aimed At Countering EMILY's List.
- + Gallup Poll: 64% Of Americans, 51% Of Republicans Back Pot Legalization.
- + Tucker Carlson Questions Why Vegas Shooting Witness Traveled To Mexico After Shooting.
- + Murphy Bill Would Expand Background Checks For Firearm Purchases.
- + NAACP Issues Travel Warning To African-Americans About American Airlines.
- + James Murdoch On Size Of O'Reilly Settlement: It "Was News To Me."
- + Bush 41 Apologizes To Woman Who Accused Him Of Inappropriately Touching Her.
- + Pelosi Tweet Mislabels Bush Presidencies.
- + Author Likens Climate Change Debate To Acid Rain Scare Of 1970s-80s.
- + Manjoo: Washington Unlikely To Take "Drastic Action" Against Big Tech.
- + RCP Average Has Trump's Job Approval At 39%.

Leading the News:

JUDGE REFUSES TO ORDER TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO PAY COST-SHARING REDUCTION PAYMENTS. The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Kendall, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports a federal district court judge in California will not order the Trump Administration to continue paying

federal district court judge in California will not order the Trump Administration to continue paying insurance companies for low-income consumers' out-of-pocket costs under Affordable Care Act exchange plans. The President announced earlier this month that the federal government would not make the \$7 billion in payments in 2017, sparking a lawsuit by 18 Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia to force the payments. Judge Vince Chhabria, sitting in San Francisco, found that the states were not likely to succeed in their case and would not order the Administration to continue paying.

<u>USA Today</u> (10/25, O'Donnell, 8.62M) reports Judge Chhabria's ruling Wednesday said, "State regulators have been working for months to prepare for the termination of these payments. ... And although you wouldn't know it from reading the states' papers in this lawsuit, the truth is that most state regulators have devised responses that give millions of lower-income people better health coverage options than they would otherwise have had."

The AP (10/26, Thanawala) reports Judge Chhabria suggested that the states should stop "yelling about higher premiums" and "focus instead on communicating the message that they have devised a response ... that will prevent harm to the large majority of people while in fact allowing millions of lower-income people to get a better deal on health insurance in 2018."

The Hill (10/25, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that the Judge thought that "the absence of money for CSR payments does not seem to be causing health care reform to come crumbling down," in part because some states, like California, allowed insurers to add a surcharge to silver plans that has the effect of also driving up tax credit subsidies from the federal government. The Hill adds, "Congress could still decide to appropriate the payments," and there is bipartisan legislation introduced by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) would make the payments for two years.

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/25, Harris, Rosenblatt, 4.52M) reports Judge Chhabria wrote of his decision to not enter a temporary restraining order against the government, "If the payments were restored...such a remedy would likely cause millions of lower-income people across the country who purchase insurance on the exchanges to be worse off than if today's status quo is preserved."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/25, Dolan, Lauter, 4.49M) reports Judge Chhabria found, "Although the case is at an early stage, and although it's a close question, it appears initially that the Trump Administration has the stronger legal argument." California Attorney General Xavier Becerra "said the state would continue to call for the resumption of the federal subsidies as the case moves forward and expressed hope that it would be resolved swiftly."



<u>Politico</u> (10/25, Colliver, Bettelheim, 3.6M) reports Justice Department spokesperson Lauren Ehrsam was pleased with the ruling, adding, "As the only federal court to address this question found, the way that these Obamacare payments were made usurped Congress's spending power under the Constitution."

Modern Healthcare (10/25, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports the written order pointed the finger at Congress, saying, "If there was no permanent appropriation in the (Affordable Care) Act, Congress is to blame for the failure, because it has not been making annual appropriations for CSR payments. The administration cannot fix Congress's error, because the Constitution prevents the administration from making payments on its own."

Reuters (10/25, Levine, Hurley) reports Sen. Murray said that the order "only makes it more critical" that the Senate pass the legislation that she co-authored, which would extend the payments for two more years.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/25, King, 465K) reports "Chhabria also said that so far no insurer has announced that it is leaving the market since Trump's decision."

Also reporting are the Washington Times (10/25, 541K), Newsweek (10/25, Goodkind, 991K), and the San Francisco Chronicle (10/26, Ho, 3.31M).

The Secretary in the News:

TRUMP TO ORDER HARGAN TO DECLARE OPIOID CRISIS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY. USA Today (10/26, Korte, 8.62M) reports President Trump "will order" Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services Eric Hargan "to declare the opioid crisis a public health emergency Thursday," but will not declare a "state of national emergency." USA adds, "Trump will sign a presidential memorandum ordering...Hargan to waive regulations and give states more flexibility in how they use federal funds."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/25, Bierman, 4.49M) reports President Trump on Wednesday "hedged his language on when he would declare a state of emergency" over the opioid crisis and "fueled doubts about the amount of legal force he will put behind the declaration." Trump told reporters, "We're going to have a big meeting on opioids tomorrow," adding that an emergency would be declared "sometime in the very short, very near future."

The Washington Post (10/25, Johnson, Bernstein, 10.38M) reports that Trump efforts to address the opioid epidemic since taking office "have been more show than substance," and there are "concerns that Trump on Thursday will either sidestep the funding issue or propose a modest amount of new money." Former Democratic Rep. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island this week described the internal White House debate as: "Can we do this on the cheap, or are we going to be serious about saving lives?" White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Tuesday that Trump "absolutely" plans additional help for addicts, but declined to detail what he will announce.

Politico (10/25, Lima, 3.6M) reports that in an interview with Fox Business on Wednesday, Trump "once again promised to declare the opioid crisis a national emergency 'next week'" in "the latest in a string of pledges on the matter that have so far gone unfulfilled." Trump said, "Next week, I'm going to declaring an emergency, national emergency on drugs. The opioid is a tremendous emergency, what's going on there." The President "similarly vowed to make the declaration official in a week's time," just over a week ago, "saying the 'major announcement' on opioids would come 'probably next week.""

STAT (10/25, Facher, 43K) reports public health experts "expect the declaration to free federal resources to help stock adequate quantities of overdose reversal drugs, expand capacity for treating substance use disorder, and create financial incentives for health providers to better conform to industry standards of care" such as prescribing medication-assisted treatment. However, addiction treatment advocates "cautioned that the declaration could prove toothless if the White House or Congress do not provide sufficient resources to implement the plan." The resignation of HHS Secretary Tom Price and the absence



of a permanent director at the Office of National Drug Control Policy mean the declaration comes despite the top drug and addiction treatment policy vacancies.

Additional coverage by Reuters (10/25, Lange) and the AP (10/26, Johnson, Colvin).

Federal Health Officials Not Looped In On Details Of Trump's Opioid Announcement. Politico (10/25, Karlin-Smith, Ehley, 3.6M) reports top federal health officials "still don't know" what Trump will announce Thursday. Assistant HHS Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Elinore McCance-Katz told Politico on Wednesday, "We don't have information about what the announcement will be, and so I can't comment on it. I honestly don't know." The article says CDC Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat "was similarly out of the loop" and a DEA spokesperson said the agency had no information, but it would be involved "to an extent." An HHS spokesperson said the agency "has been working very closely with the White House on the event for tomorrow," but wouldn't confirm whether HHS and SAMHSA have been looped in on the details.

Christie Says Trump On Thursday Likely To Declare National Emergency On Opioids. The Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger (10/25, Brodesser-Akner, 1.62M) reports that on Wednesday, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) told Bloomberg Television that Trump is likely to declare a national emergency on Thursday. Christie "acknowledged the public's frustration with the federal response," but said, "I think tomorrow you're going to hear the real specifics on what a Trump administration is going to do." Christie went on to say, "He cares about it, and I think the actions you're going to see him take in the next few days are going to make it very clear how much he cares about this issue and what he's willing to devote to it."

NJ News (10/25, 1.21M) notes that on August 10, Trump said he considered the surge in opioid-driven deaths a national emergency, two days after "Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said that no such declaration was necessary."

DETAINED TEENAGE IMMIGRANT HAS COURT-PERMITTED ABORTION, ENDING LEGAL BATTLE. The New York Times (10/25, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that "a pregnant undocumented teenager in federal custody whose attempt to have an abortion set off a monthlong legal battle with the Trump administration terminated her pregnancy on Wednesday morning," a day after a court ruling "forced federal officials to allow it."

The Washington Post (10/25, Marimow, Sacchetti, 10.38M) reports the announcement "puts an end to case that raised difficult political questions and highlighted the Trump administration's new policy of refusing to 'facilitate' abortions for unaccompanied minors." Democratic lawmakers "have demanded answers from HHS Acting Secretary Eric Hargan about why the Trump administration quietly changed federal policy to deny access to abortions for minors in custody," the Post reports, noting a March email from the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement director Scott Lloyd which "said...that government-funded shelters caring for the minors 'should not be supporting abortion services pre- or post-release; only pregnancy services and life-affirming options counseling."

Politico (10/25, Rayasam, 3.6M) reports "the girl, who was nearly 16 weeks pregnant, had been seeking an abortion since she was detained in a federally funded shelter in Texas in early September." Politico reports that "people involved in the case and familiar with the administration's policy said the Office of Refugee Resettlement, part of HHS, has engaged in a pattern of intervening to prevent abortions sought by girls at federally funded shelters."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Wolf, 8.62M) says the controversy "served to re-energize both sides in the decadeslong battle over reproductive rights," reporting that the Justice Department did not dispute that basic constitutional right but contended it did not have to facilitate the abortion by freeing her from federal custody. If she wanted the abortion, the government said, she could leave the country voluntarily or find a custodial sponsor.

The AP (10/25, Gresko, Merchant) reports the unnamed 17-year-old Jane Doe "had fought for a month to have an abortion, eventually leading to a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against the



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services." On Tuesday the full US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia "restored a lower court's ruling against HHS. The new ruling ordered HHS to step aside and allow the teen to go forward with an abortion."

The Hill (10/25, Wheeler, 1.68M) reports the ACLU tweeted Wednesday, "Make no mistake, the Trump administration's efforts to interfere in women's decisions won't stop with Jane Doe. We will not stop fighting until every woman has access to abortion care. #JusticeforJane."

The <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/25, Foley, Reilly, 5.74M) reports that "other undocumented minors are in similar situations," and "while Jane Doe found relief, her abortion won't immediately resolve a broader issue: The Trump administration is going to great lengths to keep minors in its custody from getting abortions."

NPR (10/25, Chappel, 2.4M) reported that "federal and state officials have said that because of the young woman's immigration status, she had no inherent right to an elective abortion in the US." In response to the news, "Kristan Hawkins, president of the anti-abortion rights group Students for Life, called it 'a tragedy' and said, 'The US should not become the abortion capitol of the world."

Nicole Russell writes for the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/25, 465K) that erring on the side of life "seems most prudent and in the spirit of both due process and equal protection."

Alexandra DeSanctis wrote for National Review (10/25, 892K), "It's time to pop the champagne, folks. ... This is what our most powerful public voices choose to celebrate – that a minor has finally been permitted to execute her innocent unborn child. But we're being asked to do more than simply dance on this child's grave. We are told to call it justice." WND (10/25, Unruh, 76K) headlined its story "ACLU Succeeds In Killing Teen's Unborn Baby," and the Washington Examiner (10/25, Lovelace, 465K), Washington Free Beacon (10/25, McMorris, 158K) and Daily Caller (10/25, Carr, 521K), among other news outlets, run similar reports.

In her column for the <u>Daily Beast</u> (10/25, Ryan, 988K), Erin Gloria Ryan argues that the "'pro life' forces in government…prolong[ed] the suffering of a pregnant teenager." Ryan says she is "having difficulty seeing how that's pro-anything but cruelty."

Additional coverage appears in the Wall Street Journal (10/25, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), Los Angeles Times (10/25, Savage, 4.49M), Washington Times (10/25, Swoyer, 541K), New York Daily News (10/25, Cerullo, 3.61M), Politico (10/25, Rayasam, 3.6M), Dallas Morning News (10/25, Wang, Bureau, 984K), and Austin (TX) American Statesman (10/25, Lindell, Subscription Publication, 431K).

HHS in the News:

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS CALL FOR PRESIDENT TRUMP TO ALLOW HHS TO NEGOTIATE PRICE OF NALOXONE AUTO-INJECTOR. The Hill (10/25, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports Democratic Senators are calling for "President Trump to allow the" Department of Health and Human Services "to negotiate lower prices for" the "naloxone auto-injector" Evzio. The Senators wrote in a letter to Trump, "The opioid epidemic now claims 142 deaths per day, and it is still getting worse...Unfortunately, the price of [naloxone] has increased dramatically during the epidemic."

VOLKOW: OVERCOMING OPIOID EPIDEMIC REQUIRES ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS EXACERBATING ISSUE. National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow writes in the <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/25, 5.74M) that overcoming the opioid epidemic "will require addressing the economic disparities, housing instability, poor education quality, and lack of access to quality health care (including evidence-based treatment) that currently plague many of America's disadvantaged individuals, families, and communities." She notes studies that suggest environmental stress can lead to increased risks of opioid dependence, and says it is critical to consider "the lost hope and opportunities that have intensified the demand for drugs among those who have faced" job and home losses "due to economic downturns." Dr. Volkow adds that the CDC "considers people on Medicaid and other people with low-



income to be at high risk for prescription drug overdose," and that according to "the US Department of Health and Human Services, people on Medicaid are more likely to be prescribed opioids, at higher doses, and for longer durations."

NEW YORK CITY CHURCH HELPING NIH RECRUIT DIVERSE BODY OF "ALL OF US" STUDY PARTICIPANTS. NPR (10/25, Stein, 2.4M) reports on how New York City's Abyssinian Baptist Church is working to encourage members of the black community to join the National Institutes of Health's "All of Us" Precision Medicine Initiative. The article says many in black and other minority communities are skeptical of joining trials due to medical research's "long, troubled racial history," with examples such as the Tusgekee study and the case of cancer patient Henrietta Lacks contributing to distrust. The article adds that "the National Institutes of Health and others have been trying to overcome all that, in part by working with groups like the Abyssinian Baptist Church." The article quotes Kolbi Brown, the project's program manager at the Harlem Hospital, as saying, "Our goal is to get participants – a diverse range of participants. … We want everybody."

NIH RESEARCH PROJECT FINDS PARTICIPANTS RELUCTANT TO SHARE MEDICAL DATA.

Politico (10/25, Allen, 3.6M) reports that the National Institutes of Health's All of Us project, which hopes to collect health data from at least 1 million Americans, is finding that some participants "balk when it comes to releasing their medical records." After recruitment, "an average of 20 percent [of] volunteers failed to sign off on a separate release that enables access to their electronic health records, said NIH spokeswoman Alyssa Cotler."

FDA COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR GREATER USE OF MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION. The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, McGinley, 10.38M) reports that during a House hearing on the opioid epidemic, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb called for greater use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction. Gottlieb "said the agency will issue new guidance to manufacturers to promote the development of novel therapies, including ones that treat a wider range of symptoms." The article notes that "medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combines drugs and counseling to combat addiction." <u>Reuters</u> (10/25, Clarke) reports Gottlieb suggested that every opioid addict who suffers a non-fatal overdose should receive medication-assisted treatment for as long as necessary.

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/25, Burton, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Gottlieb also told House members that physicians and other medical professionals who prescribe narcotic painkillers should be required to complete training about the risks of such drugs. Gottlieb explained he is pushing for a stronger FDA role because the crisis is so large and it requires the agency to utilize the full scope of its regulatory obligations to reduce the addiction epidemic.

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (10/25, Edney, 4.52M) reports Gottlieb also said that he wants to destigmatize medication-assisted treatment. Gottlieb said, "This attitude reveals a flawed interpretation of science. It stems from a key misunderstanding that many of us have of the difference between a physical dependence and an addiction."

<u>Vox</u> (10/25, Lopez, 1.54M) reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute on Drug Abuse both "acknowledge" the "medical value" of medication-assisted treatment.

Additional coverage is provided by: <u>The Hill</u> (10/25, Hellmann, 1.68M), the <u>Washington Times</u> (10/25, Howell, 541K), <u>STAT</u> (10/25, Facher, 43K), and <u>Modern Healthcare</u> (10/25, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K).

FDA DECLINES TO APPROVE ATALUREN FOR DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY. Reuters (10/25, Clarke) reports the Food and Drug Administration declined to approve PTC Therapeutics' ataluren to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The agency said another trial would be necessary to demonstrate that the drug is effective, but "the company said...it strongly disagreed with the agency's conclusions and plans to file a formal dispute next week."



The AP (10/25, Johnson) reports "the agency had said the drug didn't work in two key patient tests." The article points out that last month, an FDA advisory panel did not recommend the drug.

STAT (10/25, Garde, 43K) also covers the story.

Mother "Scared" By FDA's Rejection Of Treatment Her Sons Used. Newsweek (10/25, Sheridan, 991K) reports that after the FDA recently announced that it rejected PTC Therapeutics' Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) treatment ataluren, Betty Vertin, mother of three children with the condition who "have counted on" PTC's treatment "to keep them walking," said she is "really scared" for her children. The article says the family is concerned that they will not have access to the drug and is not certain the children have other treatment options. PTC said it plans to appeal the FDA's decision.

FDA CLEARS TESARO'S INTRAVENOUS TREATMENT FOR CHEMOTHERAPY-RELATED NAUSEA, VOMITING. Reuters (10/25, Grover) reports Tesaro Inc. on Wednesday announced the FDA recently approved its intravenous version of the already-approved treatment Varubi (rolapitant), used for chemotherapy-related nausea and vomiting in adults. The intravenous version "will be used in combination with other agents to prevent delayed nausea and vomiting associated with some forms of chemotherapy, the company said in a statement." According to the National Institute of Health, chemotherapy-related nausea and vomiting is one of the most acute side effects of cancer treatment, and affects as many as 80 percent of patients.

HURRICANE MARIA STILL DISRUPTING ACCESS TO MEDICAL SUPPLIES. The CBS Evening News (10/25, story 2, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M) reported, "Hurricane Maria" has "disrupted production at Puerto Rican factories that make critical drugs and medical supplies. Dr. Jon LaPook found hospitals on the US mainland are already seeing shortages." Dr. LaPook explained that "small bags of intravenous fluid" that "deliver life-saving medications like antibiotics and chemotherapy" are affected. He added, "The American Hospital Association told CBS News the shortage is quickly becoming a crisis and threat to public health."

Scientific American (10/25, Aton, 878K) reports that Puerto Rico's "climate vulnerability threatens the world's medical supplies." Almost one month after Hurricane Maria "wiped out Puerto Rico's rickety electrical grid, emergency responders are still struggling to treat the immediate health needs of people on the island." According to Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, "If we get into the first quarter of the next year and these facilities aren't back on the grid, we're going to have some concerns."

Baxter Forecasts Almost \$70M Hit To Q4 Revenue Due To Hurricane Maria. Reuters (10/25, Mukhopadhyay) reports that Baxter International "forecast a nearly \$70 million hit to its fourth-quarter revenue due to manufacturing disruptions arising from Hurricane Maria." The company "said all three of its facilities in Puerto Rico were in limited production."

AdvaMed Lauds Congress For Passing Disaster Relief Bill. Mass Device (10/25, Densford) reports that Congress "approved a \$36.5 billion emergency relief bill that will give Puerto Rico access to \$4.9 billion in treasury loans to support continued Hurricane Maria recovery efforts in the region." The bill awaits the President's signature. AdvaMed "lauded the bill, saying that it will help ensure that medical device manufacturing facilities 'get back to 100% as quickly as possible and continue to supply these important products without interruption."

CDC LAUNCHES MILESTONE TRACKER APP TO HELP ID CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (10/25, Poole, 1.16M) reports that the CDC launched an app called the CDC Milestone Tracker that aims "to improve the early detection of children with developmental delays and disabilities so families can get support early." CDC Director Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald said in a statement, "Skills like taking a first step, saying those first words, and waving goo[d]bye are developmental milestones all parents anticipate and celebrate. This CDC Milestone Tracker app gives parents tips to help their child learn and grow, a way to track developmental milestones, recognize delays, and the ability to share this information with their healthcare provider."



CDC'S VACCINE PANEL GIVES PREFERENTIAL RECOMMENDATION TO NEW SHINGLES VACCINE OVER OLD ONE. The Washington Post (10/25, Sun, 10.38M) "To Your Health" blog reports the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted to recommend GlaxoSmithKline's new Shingrix vaccine for shingles. The panel also voted that Shingrix should "be preferred" over Merck's older Zostavax vaccine, "because it provides far greater protection and is expected to prevent significant disease, especially among the elderly." Kathleen Dooling, an official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "This represents a major advance for people who want to be protected against the disease and its complications." The New York Times (10/25, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports "the panel also recommended that adults who have received the older vaccine get the new one."

STAT (10/25, Branswell, 43K) reports the panel voted 8-7 "to give a preferential recommendation to" Shingrix over Zostavax. The article explains that the panel "advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccine policy."

NBC Nightly News (10/25, story 4, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M) provided coverage in its broadcast, in which NBC's Kristen Dahlgren said, "The CDC's advisory committee now recommends those over 50 get a new vaccine called Shingrix, even if they've already vaccinated." Dahlgren added, "The recommendation means insurance companies are more likely to pay for the pricier new vaccine, which in one study reduced the risk of shingles by 97 percent."

Additional coverage is provided by: the <u>AP</u> (10/25, Stobbe), <u>Reuters</u> (10/25, Hirschler), <u>NBC News</u> (10/25, Fox, 3.46M), <u>CNN</u> (10/25, Scutti, 33.59M), the <u>Philadelphia Inquirer</u> (10/25, Loyd, 1.71M), the <u>Raleigh (NC) News & Observer</u> (10/25, Murawski, 381K), <u>Fierce Pharma</u> (10/25), and <u>Medscape</u> (10/25, 226K).

CDC ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS THIRD MUMPS VACCINE DOSE FOR AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS. STAT (10/25, Branswell, 43K) reports the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which advises the CDC, on Wednesday "unanimously voted to approve a third dose of mumps-containing vaccine as a tool for outbreak control, despite acknowledging evidence to support the practice is limited." The expert panel recommended people who have had two doses of the vaccine but who are identified as being at risk during an outbreak should receive a third dose. Panel member Dr. Kelly Moore said the committee "did not feel that we had any evidence to support a decision about a routine [third] dose outside of an actual exposure situation where there was an immediate need for that vaccine."

CMS EXPECTED TO TAKE STEPS TO PAY FOR REMOTE MONITORING. Politico (10/25, Pittman, 3.6M) reports that "under proposed rules that could be finalized within the next few weeks, CMS is expected to take steps to pay for remote monitoring." This, along "with new payment codes the American Medical Association published last week, will make it easier to bill all health insurers, including Medicare, for remote monitoring." According to Politico, "Together, the moves by the AMA and CMS would provide the digital health industry with its biggest financial windfall to date."

Health Reform:

CBO FINDS ALEXANDER-MURRAY WOULD SAVE US \$3.8 BILLION OVER TEN YEARS. The Washington Post (10/25, Goldstein, 10.38M) reports the Congressional Budget Office on Wednesday released its evaluation of the Alexander-Murray bill, finding that it "would lower the federal deficit by nearly \$3.8 billion during the next decade and would not affect the number of people with health insurance." It also projected "no fiscal effect" from the resumption of cost-sharing reduction payments, "because the CBO had been assuming" they would continue. Sens. Alexander and Murray responded to the evaluation by saying, "This nonpartisan analysis shows that our bill provides savings and ensures that funding two years of cost-sharing payments will benefit taxpayers and low-income Americans, not insurance companies."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Groppe, 8.62M) reports the CBO found the bill "would save the government money but not substantially change the number of people with health insurance." The <u>New York Times</u> (10/25,



Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the bill "would produce a modest reduction in federal budget deficits but would not substantially change the number of people with coverage." The savings of \$3.8 billion, says the Times "is a small number, but supporters of the bill made the most of it." The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Armour, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports the bill is not expected to be put up for a vote in the Senate at present, because Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he is waiting to hear the President would sign it before he will bring it to a vote. The Washington Times (10/25, Howell, 541K) reports Alexander said the CBO evaluation "proves his bill does not extend a 'bailout' to insurance companies." Bloomberg News (10/25, Tracer, Wasson, 4.52M) reports the reason the CBO "didn't find any big savings...is a technicality," in that the reason is the CBO already assumes the CSRs will continue. Reuters (10/25, Abutaleb) reports the CBO had "previously found that eliminating" CSRs "would raise the federal deficit by \$194 billion over a decade," but the bill is not estimated to have those savings, because CBO assumes the CSRs will continue. House Speaker Paul Ryan told Reuters the House would not take up the Alexander-Murray bill and that he favors the Hatch-Brady proposal announced earlier this week.

Similar coverage appears at <u>CNN</u> (10/25, Luhby, 33.59M), <u>The Hill</u> (10/25, Hellmann, 1.68M), <u>Modern Healthcare</u> (10/25, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 238K), <u>Politico</u> (10/25, Cancryn, Haberkorn, 3.6M), <u>New York Post</u> (10/25, Schultz, 4.31M) and <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/25, Leonard, 465K).

PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO ENDORSE ALEXANDER-MURRAY PUTS IT ON "BACK BURNER." The Washington Post (10/25, Cunningham, 10.38M) reports that after Tuesday's lunch with the President, Senate Republicans "emerged just as confused and disorganized as ever." Sen. Mike Rounds said, "He just encouraged us to continue to work on it. He made it clear that he appreciated what Sen. Alexander was doing." Sen. Lamar Alexander said, "My sense of things is that a growing number of senators of both parties are coming to the conclusion that we're going to need to do something before the end of the year." The Post adds that some Republican senators "are having a hard time reconciling themselves to passing a bill that props up the marketplaces which they spent most of the year trying to erase in several ACA repeal bills." Fierce Healthcare (10/25, Small, 146K) reports that because of President "Trump's unclear signals" the Alexander-Murray bill is "on the back burner as the GOP focuses on other issues." Trump on Tuesday "thanked" Alexander, "but he stopped short of endorsing it." Then the meeting turned to "tax reform, not healthcare." The President's failure to endorse the bill has "robbed it of momentum."

Reuters (10/25, Cowan, Chiacu) reports House Speaker Paul Ryan said the House would not consider Alexander-Murray this year "or try again to repeal and replace" the ACA.

SCHATZ-LUJAN PROPOSES MEDICAID "PUBLIC OPTION." The Washington Post (10/25, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that progressive Democrats have added "a new bill to their stack of health-care legislation - one that would allow people to buy into a Medicaid 'public option' in their states." Sen. Brian Schatz and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan have sponsored the State Public Option Act, which "would expand Medicaid from a program available only to Americans at or slightly above the poverty level, to a universal program anyone could buy into." The measure has 18 cosponsors in the Senate, "including Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and most of the party's potential 2020 presidential candidates." The Daily Caller (10/25, Donachie, 521K) reports Schatz said, "I think it's a golden age in terms of policy ideas when it comes to Democrats and health care." He added, "We want to make sure that people understand that we have a vision for the future." The Hill (10/25, Carney, 1.68M) reports in its "Floor Action" blog the bill "would let states create a public option by expanding Medicaid eligibility to any individual who wants to buy into the program." The Huffington Post (10/25, Cohn, 5.74M) reports that with Schatz's proposal, "there are now three separate 'public option' proposals" from Democrats: Schatz's; "Medicare X" proposed by Sen. Michael Bennet and Tim Kaine; and the Sen. Debbie Stabenow plan that "would allow anybody 55 or over to buy into Medicare." The Atlantic (10/25, Foran, 1.64M)reports the Schatz plan "would allow states to set up their own public option by expanding Medicaid...to any American who wants to buy into it."

Sen. Brian Schatz writes in <u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Schatz, 8.62M) that Medicaid "is underrated. It has a large provider network and the same positive ratings as private insurance but at a much lower cost to the government." Schatz argues that his legislation "would build on the success of Medicaid and the ACA, and help the nearly 30 million Americans who still do not have insurance."



ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT ISSUE PROJECTION OF OPEN ENROLLMENT ENROLLEES. The Hill (10/25, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports the Trump Administration, according to an unnamed Department of Health and Human Services official, will not issue an estimate of expected enrollees in this year's open enrollment beginning November 1. HHS spokesman Matt Lloyd said, "It's important to remember that Obamacare enrollment was in decline before President Trump took office." Lloyd added, "The previous administration inflicted heavy damage on the individual market — premiums doubled, insurers dropped out of the individual market in droves, millions of Americans saw their plans cancelled because Washington didn't approve of them, and millions more paid billions in fines to avoid the kind of coverage Obamacare dictated." The Washington Examiner (10/25, Leonard, 465K) reports the Administration has added "several new features" to Healthcare.gov, including opening it early for prospective customers to "see what plans will be available to them and how much they will cost." Randy Pate, deputy administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said, "Our target this year is to have a seamless open enrollment for consumers." He added, "The numbers we think will take care of themselves." Another official said, "HHS is implementing open enrollment according to the law."

Healthcare Advocacy Groups Step In To Enroll People In Affordable Care Act Plans. ABC News (10/25, McGraw, 2.83M) reports that healthcare advocacy groups "have stepped in to help inform people of their options" during ACA open enrollment that begins November 1, after the Trump Administration's "moves to shorten the length of this year's open enrollment, cut advertising dollars and slash funding for programs that assist in enrollment." The article mentions that former Obama Administration officials created one such group, Get America Covered, to advertise and engage in outreach, including former CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt, Josh Peck, and Lori Lodes.

Missouri's Affordable Care Act Navigators Work To Spread Awareness Of Open Enrollment. The Columbia (MO) Missourian (10/25, Stewart, 17K) reports that Affordable Care Act navigators in Missouri are doing what they can to "inform people about open enrollment in the marketplace, even as the Trump administration and Congress have worked to undercut the law that created it." The article mentions that the Department of Health and Human Services scheduled weekly downtimes for healthcare.gov, the website through which Missouri consumers must enroll, shortened the enrollment period to November 1 through December 15, and cut navigators' budgets by 90 percent nationwide.

ANALYSIS: HEALTHCARE.GOV "SILVER" PLANS HAVE AVERAGE PREMIUM INCREASE OF 34 PERCENT. The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports on Wednesday, HealthCare.gov released new information about health insurance plans available in the open enrollment period starting November 1. According to Avalere Health, which analyzed the information for the 39 states which use HealthCare.gov, premiums for "silver" plans will increase by an average of 34 percent, while "bronze" plans will rise 18 percent, and "gold" plans 16 percent. Avalere attributed at least part of the increase to President Trump's decision to stop making cost-sharing reimbursement payments to insurance companies, though it also blamed uncertainties in the market. Nate Purpura, of eHealth Inc., explained that while premiums are going up for those without subsidies, those with subsidies will see those increased. The Washington Times (10/25, Howell, 541K) reports "plans and premiums are now live on HealthCare.gov" so that people can "window-shop" in anticipation of open enrollment starting November 1. The range of premium changes is wide as lowans "will see a 67 percent increase, on average" while Alaskans "will see an average decrease of 22 percent."

The AP (10/25, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports the Avalere Health study "confirms dire predictions about the impact of political turmoil on consumers." While nationwide the average "silver" plan was to increase 34 percent, some states had higher increases as Florida (49 percent); Missouri (43 percent), and Wyoming (65 percent). Just three states will have average decreases in premiums: Alaska, Arizona, and North Dakota. Larry Levitt of the Kaiser Family Foundation said, "There is a danger that middle-class people who don't get government help in paying their premiums could be increasingly priced out of the market." Similar coverage appeared at The Hill (10/25, Weixel, 1.68M), and Washington Examiner (10/25, Leonard, 465K).

MARYLAND APPROVES RATE INCREASES UP TO 76 PERCENT. The Washington Post (10/25,



Itkowitz, 10.38M) reports the Maryland Insurance Administration approved rate increases for CareFirst Blue Cross and Kaiser Permanente "in a direct response to President Donald Trump's executive order" ending cost-sharing reduction payments. The state regulator estimated that "about 25,000 Maryland residents" would be affected should they decide to keep their current coverage. The late change comes because Maryland decided not to consider increases tied to CSRs until the President officially ended the payments, whereas the Post says that other states had acted in anticipation of the decision. CareFirst will increase the premium "by 58.2 percent for its silver HMO plan and 76 percent for its silver PPO plan," while Kaiser's silver HMO plan will rise 43.4 percent. CareFirst said that even had CSRs continued it would have had to raise rates 31.4 percent and 52.1 percent, respectively, while Kaiser would raise its silver plan premium 22.7 percent. The Baltimore Sun (10/25, McDaniels, 706K) reports the Maryland Insurance Administration "said the majority of consumers who face rate hikes will get a separate subsidy to offset the more expensive premiums." Insurance Commissioner Al Redmer Jr. said, "Our goal was to minimize the impact on as many consumers as possible." The AP (10/25) reports according to the Maryland Insurance Administration, the rises "are expected to affect roughly 96,000 people who buy silver plans through the state's health insurance exchange." The Baltimore Business Journal (10/25, Munshaw, Subscription Publication, 870K) also carried a report.

MASSACHUSETTS EXCHANGE SPOKESMAN URGES RESIDENTS TO SHOP AROUND. The Worcester (MA) Business Journal (10/25, Micucci, 117K) reports the Massachusetts Health Connector spokesman Jason Lefferts on Monday urged people "to shop around in order to escape large premium increases in 2018." The Health Connector also estimated the premium increases will "impact up to 80,000 unsubsidized members of health insurance plans through the state insurance exchange." Lefferts, in Worcester Monday, said the premium increases "will be dealt with through a tax credit for those who qualify based on income," for those who don't they should "shop for the most affordable plans on the exchange...or...buy individual insurance directly from carriers."

MICHIGAN TO SEE PREMIUM INCREASES AVERAGING 26.9 PERCENT. The Detroit Free Press (10/25, Reindl, 1.07M) reports in Michigan, the average premium on the state's health insurance "exchange will jump an average 26.9%" over last year. The Free Press adds that "more than 80% of consumers in Michigan who buy insurance on the exchange do not pay full price." Insurers attributed the increase to "rising health care costs, especially for specialty drugs." Insurers also identified those "who stop paying their premiums once they've received services or procedures" and "younger people under age 26 who stay on their parents' insurance" or who do not enroll at all, "leaving older people with higher costs in the insurance pool." The Free Press adds that this year's increase "is especially big as a result of the Trump administration's recent announcement" ending cost-sharing reduction payments. The Free Press says Blue Care Network of Michigan "will raise its rates by an average 22.6%," while Blue Cross Blue Shield "will increase rates by 31.7%."

RHODE ISLAND PREMIUMS WILL INCREASE AN AVERAGE OF 18 TO 20 PERCENT. The Providence (RI) Journal (10/25, Parker, 298K) reports Rhode Island health insurance commissioner Marie Ganim on Wednesday "approved premium increases, of 18 to 20 percent on some plans, for Rhode Island's Obamacare marketplace, blaming the rate hike on President Donald Trump's elimination" CSRs. The commissioner's office said "silver" plans in Rhode Island would see premium increases on average of 18 to 20 percent. Ganim said in a statement, "I want to make it very clear that the president's decision to end these payments has already created unnecessary turmoil and threatened the stability of our health insurance market." Providence (RI) Business News (10/25, Bergenheim, 31K) reports the commissioner's office said it is "working to redirect federal subsidies to offset premium increases." The AP (10/25) reports HealthSource RI, the state exchange, and the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner on Wednesday called the decision ending CSRs "reckless", and said the premium increases for "include a 'Trump tax."

ANTHEM PROJECTS 70 PERCENT DECLINE IN INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENTS IN 2018. In an announcement the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, Johnson, 10.38M) calls "a further sign of how uncertainty is shaking companies' confidence" in the insurance marketplace, Anthem on Wednesday "projected a drastic 70 percent decline in individual enrollment for 2018, even as the company said it was on track to break even on the exchanges this year." The projections, "announced during an earnings call,"



underscored "just how much uncertainty over Obamacare, due in large part to mixed signals and last-minute changes from the White House, has shaken companies' confidence in the marketplace." Reuters (10/25, Humer, Banerjee) reports Anthem "forecast a slight 2018 profit for the government plans," but added that "it had cut in half the number of areas where it will sell individual plans in 2018, which will reduce enrollment by 70 percent next year and help profits."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/25, Mathews, Lombardo, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports the estimate indicates the effects of the company's decision to reduce its exposure to the ACA exchanges. Anthem will offer ACA policies in 56 of the 143 regions it sells individual policies, whereas it had been offering ACA policies in nearly all of the areas it sold individual policies.

NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF VOTERS BELIEVE ACA HAS BEEN FULLY OR PARTIALLY REPEALED, POLL SAYS. CNBC (10/25, Mangan, 3.48M) reports that a Morning Consult/Politico poll released Wednesday found that 24 percent of American voters mistakenly believe that the Affordable Care Act "has been partially repealed," and another 15 percent believe it has been "fully repealed, or repealed and replaced with a new health-care law." Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, commented on the poll saying, "We've been campaigning on it for seven years. ... So I think some people believe that we've executed better than we have." The poll also found that 67 percent of voters say former President Obama is "responsible for the state of Obamacare."

INDUSTRY PUSHING REPEAL OF ACA TAXES. The Hill (10/25, Roubein, 1.68M) reports, "The medical device and insurance industries are fighting to stop ObamaCare taxes from taking effect." While, "industry sources ... point to new legislation released last week to delay the health insurance tax and a letter — with a lengthy list of signees — sent to Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) in favor of repealing the medical device tax," yet, "there isn't much time" as the current delay in the tax "is set to expire at the end of the year." As part of the effort, "179 House members — including 43 Democrats" have written Ryan "calling for the full repeal of the medical device tax," while a house bill for repeal has 260 co-sponsors, and a Senate bill has 14 co-sponsors. In addition, the insurance industry is seeking further delay or repeal of the ACA tax on more expensive policies.

ONLINE TOOL ESTIMATES COST OF BIRTH CONTROL, SENDS BILL TO WHITE HOUSE, HHS. The Huffington Post (10/25, Hatch, 5.74M) reports on an online tool, launched by Keep Birth Control Copay Free, "that allows users to select their contraceptive type from a drop down menu and get the estimate of what that contraceptive would cost annually." The user then are "prompted to send the invoice to the Trump administration and the Department of Health and Human Services." The Hill (10/25, Thomsen, 1.68M) in its "In The Know" blog, reports the tool shows "how much their birth control would cost if their employers chose to no longer cover it," then "sends the bill for the calculated cost to the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services."

CNN ANALYSIS: TRUMP HEALTHCARE POLICIES HARM INDUSTRIAL MIDWEST. CNN (10/25, Petulla, 33.59M) reports on President Trump's policies that would disproportionately affect the industrial Midwest, mentioning healthcare bills that would weaken ACA protections for those with "pre-existing conditions," as well as those who have enrolled under ACA Medicaid expansion, because "the Rust Belt has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act." CNN adds that the decision to stop CSRs "may not impact the Rust Belt as much," because the region has "a lower number of enrollees benefiting from CSR payments."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform. The Washington Post (10/25, 10.38M) editorializes that the Congressional Budget Office found Wednesday that the bipartisan healthcare proposal could reform the system, restrain costs, and would not kick "anyone off their coverage." The Post says: "The bipartisan compromise proposal crafted by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.) now officially falls into the category of 'so obvious it should pass immediately." The editorial concludes, "Republicans can continue ignoring reality, tempting chaos in health-care markets and risking the nation's fiscal health. But they cannot claim they were not warned."



Jennifer Rubin writes in the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, Rubin, 10.38M) in its "Right Turn" blog that Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) got a "boost" from the Congressional Budget Office score because the plan would reduce the federal deficit by \$3.8 billion in the next ten years and would not affect the number of uninsured. Rubin adds, "The hang-up here is the president, who cannot decide what he wants – and likely doesn't know precisely what is in the Alexander-Murray bill." The piece says that the bill is a "no-brainer" and "it's time for Trump to decide what he wants to do – stick Americans with soaring premium costs or back a bill that shrinks the deficit and maintains much of the status quo."

Michael Hiltzik writes in the Los Angeles Times (10/25, 4.49M) that the Congressional Budget Office offered "good news" that the bill co-authored by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) "would accomplish its goal of reducing premiums and would even cut the federal deficit, without raising the number of Americans without health coverage," but also the "bad news" that it is "already too late for the measure to affect premiums for 2018." Hiltzik details the CBO's analyses of the legislation's key provisions, however, he opines that "there are no signs it ever will be enacted at all."

Bruce Yandle writes in the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/25, 465K) that President Trump's executive actions ending insurer subsidies and allowing "plans with scaled-down coverage" are "understandably controversial," however, "Trump's changes eliminate perpetual red-ink operations and make for a more sustainable healthcare system." Yandle questions why we do not have "data on how much cost individuals or families, on average or in certain categories, impose annually on the healthcare system." The piece recommends that President Trump "instruct the Department of Health and Human Services to provide quarterly statements to all those covered by healthcare insurance, reporting the cost each individual has imposed on the healthcare system, the payments made by the individual, and the balance, all on one page" to create more informed consumers of healthcare.

Dr. Peter Lurie, President of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, writes in a piece in The Hill (10/25, 1.68M) that a leaked memo from the White House's Domestic Policy Council shows the Administration's "overweening contempt for the public's health." Specifically, Dr. Lurie points out that the memo recommends that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "shift money away from chronic diseases (esp playgrounds/nutritional nannying) state grant programs and put it in the HIV/Hep/TB/STI division." The piece continues, "In short, the Trump White House is calling for the nation's premier public health agency to shortchange the main risks to our health, and, in so doing, to drive up the health care costs it professes to be concerned about." The article mentions that former Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price's "focus on childhood obesity was on the money" at least.

Four medical school students, Augie Lindmark, Vanessa Van Doren, Bryant Shuey, and Andy Hyatt, write in <u>STAT</u> (10/25, 43K) that "America's fragmented and inequitable health system is a sinking ship and recent fixes – often in the form of private health insurance industry bailouts or shutouts – are like placing tissue paper over the leaks in this doomed vessel." The piece discusses the recent bills in the House and Senate proposing Medicare-for-All, and that majorities of Americans and their physicians now support single-payer healthcare. They conclude, "As medical students, we occupy a unique seat from which to view America's health system" and they want to practice in a Medicare-for-All system "where every patient has health care."

Opioid News:

LAWMAKERS THREATEN TO SUBPOENA DEA FOR OPIOID INFORMATION. The Washington Times (10/25, Howell, 541K) reports that members of the House threatened to subpoena the DEA on Wednesday, "saying their patience is 'wearing thin' as they seek information about who supplied millions of pain pills to hard-hit West Virginia." Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden said it is unacceptable that he has been waiting six months for the agency to name the companies. Walden told Neil Doherty, a deputy assistant DEA administrator who testified before the panel Wednesday, "I'm going to be very blunt: my patience is wearing thin. Our requests for data from the DEA are met with delay, excuses and, frankly, inadequate response. People are dying. Lives and families are ruined. ... It is time



for DEA to get this committee the information we need, and to do it quickly. ... No more dodges. No more delays."

The Washington Post (10/25, Bernstein, Higham, 10.38M) reports that "lawmakers urged the Drug Enforcement Administration to seek more legal authority if it is needed to battle the nation's opioid epidemic, telling an official they are awaiting suggestions on how they can help stem the worst drug crisis in U.S. history. 'Give us suggestions. Talk to us. We want to do the right thing,' Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Fla.) implored at a hearing held Wednesday by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. 'We need to know the tools that you need to handle this. We're on the same team with regard to this.'" The Post adds that "the offers to" Doherty "came in the wake of a joint report by The Washington Post and '60 Minutes' that Congress had stripped the DEA of its most potent enforcement weapon against giant companies whose drugs are sometimes illegally diverted onto the street."

CNN (10/25, Vazquez, 33.59M) reports that the subpoena threat "comes after several, months-long requests for data on the companies supplying millions of oxycodone and hydrocodone pills to towns in West Virginia, a state heavily affected by the opioid epidemic. 'If you needed to get this information for enforcement action, I suspect and hope you'd get this information quickly, within hours or days?'" Walden asked Doherty, later adding, "To me, this is a pretty basic question. Who are the suppliers?." Doherty "said much of the information requested was provided to the committee the night prior to the panel," but Walden "and other committee members said some of the data the DEA has produced has been insufficient." The Daily Caller (10/25, Birr, 521K) also reports.

FEDERAL SPENDING TARGETING OPIOIDS STARTING TO TAKE EFFECT, BUT HURDLES REMAIN FOR SOME STATE EFFORTS. The AP (10/25, Johnson)reports that the \$1 billion Congress approved as part of last year's 21st Century Cures Act to tackle the opioid crisis "is gradually reaching places where it can do some good, but with some setbacks and delays along the way." At a Wednesday hearing Republicans and Democrats "shared frustration as they questioned top administration officials about federal spending" to fight the opioid crisis. "It is a great opportunity, but it comes with a lot of angst," said Tom Hill of the nonprofit National Council for Behavioral Health. States have analyzed data, chosen contractors and are "just getting programs up and running right now." The AP details state efforts, points out where some initiatives have stalled, and reports that "many state officials worry about funds drying up when the two-year grant ends."

SENATE DEMOCRATS SEEK \$45 BILLION TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC. The Washington Times (10/25, Howell, 541K), which says Trump "is expected to declare the epidemic a national emergency on Thursday," reports that a bill introduced Wednesday by Senate Democrats seeks "\$45 billion to combat the opioids epidemic." The Times says Democrats are "laying down their marker for new resources before President Trump outlines his strategy for coping with the crisis." Sen. Ed Markey and 14 other senators "said the funding would build on efforts Congress took last year to combat the prescription painkiller and heroin scourge, while forcing Mr. Trump to match his tough rhetoric with the cash needed to implement new policies." Markey said, "The Trump administration's plan to address the opioid epidemic has been little more than empty words and broken promises. ... What we need to fight this scourge is continued and reliable long-term investments in prevention, treatment, recovery, and monitoring."

RHODE ISLAND PHYSICIAN PLEADS GUILTY TO OPIOID KICKBACK SCHEME LINKED TO INSYS.

Reuters (10/25, Raymond) reports Rhode Island physician Jerrold Rosenberg pleaded guilty on Wednesday "to charges he participated in a scheme to obtain kickbacks in exchange for writing prescriptions for an addictive fentanyl-based cancer pain drug produced by Insys Therapeutics Inc." Rosenberg "schemed to receive \$188,000 in kickbacks in the form of speaker fees from Insys, which were a major factor in his decision to prescribe Subsys to patients" between 2012 and 2015. Insys in a statement said it has "taken necessary and appropriate steps to prevent past mistakes from happening in the future," while Reuters notes that federal charges against Insys have been brought in other states.

The AP (10/25, Smith) also reports.

US PROBING PURDUE OVER OPIOID RELIEF CLAIM. Bloomberg News (10/25, Deprez, 4.52M)



reports that federal prosecutors in Connecticut "began a criminal investigation into Purdue Pharma Inc.'s marketing of the controversial opioid painkiller OxyContin." US Attorney Deirdre Daly's office "is gathering documents about Purdue's claim that OxyContin provides 12 hours of pain relief." Bloomberg notes that "a Los Angeles Times investigation, published last year, found that Purdue ignored evidence showing the drug's effects failed to last that long in some patients, increasing the risk of withdrawal, abuse and addiction. 'Purdue is committed to being part of the solution to our nation's opioid crisis and has been cooperating with the U.S. Attorney's investigation,' company spokesman Robert Josephson said in an email."

Reuters (10/25) reports that Purdue "has faced a wave of lawsuits by Louisiana, Washington, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, New Hampshire and South Carolina, as well as several cities and counties," and "the lawsuits have generally accused Stamford, Connecticut Purdue of deceptive marketing of OxyContin and convincing doctors and the public that its drugs had a low-risk of addiction and were effective for treating chronic pain." Purdue and three executives "pleaded guilty in 2007 to federal charges related to the misbranding of OxyContin and agreed to pay a total of \$634.5 million to resolve a U.S. Justice Department probe." The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Randazzo, Whalen, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) also reports.

MARYLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY RECOMMENDS AGAINST AUTOMATED OPIOID PRESCRIBING.

The AP (10/25, Slater) reports the Maryland State Medical Society is "urging hospitals and physicians in the state to decrease the automated controlled-substance standing orders and to prescribe a minimum amount of opioids necessary." The society, known as MedChi, created an Opioid Task Force to "educate Maryland physicians on safe opioid prescribing practices, how to recognize risk factors, and when to recommend alternative, scientifically-based evidence-based non-opioid treatments," according to a release earlier this month. MedChi says that if opioids are being prescribed, hospitals and physicians should not rely on auto-populated dosages, but should decide which dosage is actually necessary for the pain being treated.

NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR SAYS OPIOID CRISIS NEEDS BIPARTISAN SOLUTION. The Wilmington (NC) Star News (10/25, Buckland, 138K) reports North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D) said the opioid crisis "requires a bipartisan solution." Cooper "said more needs to be done to remove the stigma of addiction, saying it should be viewed as a disease, like cancer, that needs to be treated." In his role on President Trump's opioid commission, Cooper "said he continues to try to fight to keep the Affordable Care Act, saying nothing would exacerbate the opioid epidemic than repealing the law and continuing efforts to fight Medicaid expansion."

OPINION: DOCTORS, INSURERS MUST REVISE POLICIES TO DISCOURAGE PATIENTS FROM SEEKING OPIOIDS. Richard L. Jackson writes for the <u>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</u> (10/25, 1.16M) that to prevent opioid addiction among patients, Georgia's medical community "needs to take the lead on solving this problem and revise policies" to discourage patients from pursuing opioids as a solution to physical or emotional pain. Physicians and dentists should prescribe opioids "only in extreme circumstances for physical pain" for seven days instead of 30 days "or longer and only after surgery or for cancer patients or hospice patients." Jackson also writes that medical groups "should lobby Congress to immediately end the insurance payment system that includes pain as a fifth vital sign," arguing reimbursements should not be linked to patient satisfaction with pain management.

OP-ED: OPIOID EMERGENCY MAY MAKE LIFE UNTENABLE FOR CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS.

Melissa Sanders-Self writes in the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (10/25, Sanders-Self, 4.49M) that she is undergoing radiation therapy stage-3 neuroendocrine cancer and depends on opioids. She says, "The rate of misuse is much lower among patients who are prescribed opioid medication for chronic pain – 21% to 29%, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse." She adds that not all opioid users are destined to become addicted and that the American Medical Association has recognized a "blunt, one-size-fits-all approach" to the problem could impact physicians and patients.

USA TODAY CALLS FOR ACTION TO STEM SPREAD OF FENTANYL. In an editorial, <u>USA Today</u> (10/25, 8.62M) calls fentanyl the "new leading killer" in the opioid epidemic and says that if President



Trump "as expected Thursday...declares an emergency, the most urgent element of that emergency is the spread of fentanyl." Addressing the crisis "should mean stronger action on both the demand side, meaning stepped-up efforts to treat users, and the supply side, meaning more aggressive crackdowns on the sources of fentanyl and its traffickers."

Mental Illness:

UNTREATED DEPRESSION, ANXIETY MAY BE LINKED TO MORE TIME IN HOSPITAL STAYS FOR PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED CANCER, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (10/25, Rapaport) reports that research published online Oct. 23 in the journal Cancer suggests "patients with advanced cancer may spend more time in the hospital when they have untreated symptoms like fatigue and depression." The investigators followed more than 1,000 patients with advanced cancer who had hospital stays that were not planned. While "overall, these unplanned hospitalizations lasted an average of 6.3 days...stays were longer when patients were depressed." Meanwhile, "within 90 days of being sent home, 43 percent of the patients were hospitalized again; repeat hospitalizations were more common among people with anxiety."

Healthcare Fraud:

JURORS IN CHIN TRIAL ACQUIT HIM OF MURDER, CONVICT HIM OF RACKETEERING, MAIL FRAUD. The AP (10/25) reports the jury in the case of former New England Compounding Center supervising pharmacist Glenn Chin on Wednesday cleared him of second-degree murder charges, but convicted him of mail fraud and racketeering. The jury "concluded...Chin was not responsible for the deaths of people who were injected with mold-contaminated drugs produced by the now-closed" NECC. The CDC says 64 people died in 2013 due to meningitis cases linked to the medications.

Reuters (10/25, Raymond) reports Chin's lawyers argued he was not responsible for the deaths of 25 people injected with drugs made by the NECC, saying instead that the fault lay with NECC co-founder and former president Barry Cadden. The article adds the meningitis outbreak created by the NECC drugs "led Congress in 2013 to pass a law that aimed to clarify the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ability to oversee large compounding pharmacies."

The Boston Globe (10/25, 969K) also reports.

Healthcare News:

WISCONSIN BILL WOULD REQUIRE NOTICE FOR WOMEN WITH DENSE BREAST TISSUE. The AP (10/25) reports on a new bill circulating in the Wisconsin state legislature that would require physicians to notify women if they have dense breast tissue after reviewing their mammogram screenings. The AP adds, "Supporters of the proposal said Wednesday it would help to empower women to make decisions about their health care," because "it is more difficult to detect cancerous tumors in women with dense breast tissue."

NEW RANKINGS SHOW WORST VA HOSPITALS LAST YEAR REMAIN THE WORST. <u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Slack, 8.62M) reports that internal rankings released by the Department of Veterans Affairs Wednesday show that "many of the worst VA hospitals in the country last year remain among the worst this year." Nearly a dozen hospitals "who received one out of five stars in quality ratings this year received the same low score in 2016," including "three veterans' hospitals in Tennessee – in Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Memphis, where threats to patient safety have skyrocketed in recent years," and "the Phoenix VA, where veterans died waiting for care touching off a national scandal in 2014."

MASSACHUSETTS' HEALTHCARE PROPOSAL PITS LARGE HOSPITALS AGAINST COMMUNITY HOSPITALS. The <u>Boston Globe</u> (10/26, McCluskey, 969K) reports on healthcare legislation aimed at trying to control costs "in part by reducing the stark disparities at which hospitals are paid," pitting small community hospitals against their larger competitors. The plan has a two elements: "prop up community



hospitals by setting a minimum amount for payments, and set a benchmark for growth in overall hospital spending," and "if the hospital industry overall exceeds that benchmark, estimated at 2.7 percent, the legislation allows for potentially millions of dollars in fines against the three Massachusetts hospitals with the highest commercial spending." Executives at Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women's object to the bill because they may face fines, however, lawmakers said they intend to move forward.

PHYSICIANS MAY PRESCRIBE MORE, AND MORE EXPENSIVE, DRUGS WHEN THEY RECEIVE GIFTS FROM PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES. The New York Times (10/25, Bakalar, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports researchers found that physicians "prescribe more – and more expensive – drugs" when they receive gifts from pharmaceutical companies, and that "the more lavish the gifts, the greater the effect." Researchers combined data on prescriptions written in Washington DC from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with data from the DC health department on gifts given from pharmaceutical companies to healthcare providers. The findings were published in PLOS One.

OHIO HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES BAN ON DOWN SYNDROME ABORTIONS. The AP (10/25) reports that Ohio's House Health Committee on Wednesday passed a measure "to ban abortions based on a diagnosis of Down syndrome." Under the proposal, physicians convicted for performing such an abortion "could be charged with a fourth-degree felony, stripped of their medical license and held liable for legal damages." Supporters of the measure argued abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis are "a form of discrimination stemming for misinformation and society's growing perfectionism." However, abortion rights groups argued the measure "is part of a broader effort to restrict women's access to legal abortions."

The <u>Columbus (OH) Dispatch</u> (10/25, Henry, 456K) reports the measure, sponsored by State Reps. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township), passed in a 12-5 vote.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS USED IN NEW YORK NEIGHBORHOODS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO HOSPITAL CARE. Politico (10/25, Kenen, 3.6M) reports on the role of community health workers in New York City neighborhoods, as American health care seeks to push "care outward from expensive hospital settings and into people's homes, keeping diseases in check and preventing patients from cycling in and out of the emergency room." In some examples of the role these workers hold, a health coach "can make sure a heart patient has a bathroom scale to do those life-saving daily weight checks, that a diabetic knows how to prepare a meal that's appetizing, healthy and culturally familiar," or that an asthma patient understands how to use their inhaler.

Human Services News:

COLORADO NEEDS 1,200 MORE CERTIFIED FOSTER FAMILIES, REPORT FINDS. The Denver Post (10/25, Brown, 817K) reports that data released Tuesday by the Colorado Department of Human Services show that nearly 10,000 children in the state "spent time in foster care last year," and on average, "14 children each day are removed from their parents and placed temporarily in the child welfare system." This analysis suggests "the state needs 1,200 more foster families within the next two years," with the shortage meaning "children are more likely to move to a foster family in another county, away from their school, sports teams, activities and friends," with siblings being split up.

Food & Import Safety:

STUDY FINDS ARSENIC IN 65 PERCENT OF BABY FOOD PRODUCTS. USA Today (10/25, May, 8.62M) reports that an "alarming" study released Wednesday by the Clean Label Project "found many baby food products test positive for arsenic, including 80% of infant formulas." The nonprofit advocacy group tested about 530 baby products, including food, "infant formulas, toddler drinks and snacks purchased within the past 5 months," and "found 65% of products tested positive for arsenic, 36% for lead, 58% for cadmium and 10% for acrylamide." FDA spokesperson Peter Cassell said, "It is important for consumers to understand that some contaminants, such as heavy metals like lead or arsenic, are in the environment and cannot simply be removed from food."



The New York Daily News (10/25, Scotti, 3.61M) notes that the FDA "proposed a limit of 100 parts per billion of arsenic in infant rice foods in 2016, but the limit isn't being enforced."

LAT: GMO-FREE LABELS CONFUSE CONSUMERS. The Los Angeles Times (10/25, Mohan, 4.49M) reports dairy producer Clover Sonoma is following the "accelerating trend of labeling products as free of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, which some consumers fear could cause health and environmental damage, despite firm rebuttals from the country's top scientific and medical organizations." Clover Sonoma milk produced from cows that "ate no GMO feed" have joined the "metaphoric shelf shared with GMO-free kitty litter, salt and condoms." The story notes the National Milk Producers Federation "peel back the label" campaign, which questions the value of GMO-free labels for milk, which didn't contain GMOs.

CHINESE CITIZENS INDICTED FOR FRAUD AFTER SMUGGLING SUPPLEMENTS CONTAINING ILLEGAL STIMULANT. The <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (10/25, Krause, 984K) reports that on Tuesday, a Dallas, Texas, court indicted "five Chinese citizens and their companies...for allegedly importing supplements tainted with the" illegal synthetic stimulant DMAA. The indictments say the defendants shipped supplements also containing another stimulant called DMHA, which the Dallas US Attorney's office says is "chemically similar" to DMAA, although the latter "has been linked to severe" health issues. The article adds that in 2012, the FDA "sent warning letters...about DMAA to supplement retailers...saying the synthetic ingredient was illegal and dangerous."

Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

WPOST A1 ANALYSIS: CALIFORNIA'S "EXORBITANT HOUSING COSTS" DRIVE HEPATITIS A CRISIS. The Washington Post (10/25, Wilson, 10.38M) reports on its front page that the hepatitis A outbreak "racing through homeless encampments" in Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, and San Diego is "the extreme result of a booming state economy, now driving up home prices after years of government decisions that made low-cost housing more difficult to build." The Post says that health officials "believe an epidemic that has infected more than 500 people statewide since March began in San Diego County, where 19 people have died as a result of the disease, nearly all of them homeless."

HEALTH EXPERTS WORRY PUERTO RICO COULD SEE WATERBORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAK DUE TO MARIA. NBC News (10/26, Silva, 3.46M) reports on its website that health experts worry Puerto Ricans could face a health crisis as the island works to recuperate after sustaining damage from Hurricane Maria. Medical experts say the island is at risk of seeing an epidemic of waterborne illnesses even as waterborne leptospirosis claimed the lives of two more on Tuesday. A CDC spokeswoman "confirmed...on Wednesday that they had received a shipment of specimens from the U.S. territory and were currently analyzing them at their laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia, for signs of leptospira, the bacteria that causes the disease," while island officials work to determine whether more residents have been infected.

LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE INFECTS 12 IN NYC. Fox News (10/25, Lam, 12.87M) reports online that the New York City Health Department announced Tuesday that at least 12 people in Queens have contracted the potentially fatal Legionnaires' disease. Fox says five people remain hospitalized, and no deaths have been reported. Fox adds that officials are urging residents with a fever, cough, chills, and muscle aches to seek immediate medical attention. The <u>Huffington Post</u> (10/25, Weber, 5.74M) paraphrases the CDC as saying "about one out of every 10 people who contract the illness will die of complications from it," and "about 6,000 cases of Legionnaires' disease were reported in 2015." NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Assistant Press Secretary Julien Martienez said Wednesday that this cluster investigation does not amount to an outbreak, and "it's not anything usual," as NYC typically sees 200 to 400 cases of Legionnaires' each year.

PENNSYLVANIA REPORT FINDS FALLING FATALITY RATE AMONG STATE'S SEPSIS PATIENTS. The Philadelphia Inquirer (10/25, Avril, 1.71M) says a report by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost



Containment Council found that "in fiscal 2016, 8.8 percent of sepsis patients died in the state's hospitals, down from 15.4 percent five years earlier." Physicians attribute this trend to "earlier diagnosis and fast treatment with antibiotics." However, "at six hospitals in the Philadelphia area, patients with sepsis died at a higher rate than expected." According to the CDC, in the article's words, "each year, 1.5 million people develop sepsis in the United States and 250,000 die from it."

UNION SUES TO PREVENT ESSENTIA HEALTH FROM FIRING WORKERS WHO REFUSE FLU SHOTS. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (10/25, Walsh, 1.27M) reports that United Steelworkers filed a lawsuit last week on behalf of its union members at 11 Essentia locations to prevent Essentia Health from firing employees who refuse to get flu shots. The Tribune says that Essentia announced in September that it would require all employees to get flu shots by November 10, with "very limited medical and religious exemptions." According to the lawsuit, employees who "have medical conditions or religious beliefs that make it impossible for them to receive the vaccine" have been denied exemptions, and if they do not comply by the deadline, they will be fired on November 20. The CDC "says that its most recent studies found that the vaccination reduces the risk of getting the flu by anywhere from 40 to 60 percent for the overall population when the medication is properly matched with a particular virus."

Medicare:

FOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INTRODUCE BILLS THAT WOULD ALLOW MEDICARE TO NEGOTIATE DRUG PRICES. The Hill (10/25, Roubein, 1.68M) reports several Democrats and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced legislation in the House and the Senate that would allow the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate drug prices for Medicare. Some Democrats expressed frustration that President Trump hasn't supported them after he criticized pharmaceutical companies and high drug prices during his campaign.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/25, King, 465K) reports Reps. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Peter Welch (D-VT), and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) spoke at a joint press conference and said they had sent letters to Trump with copies of their legislation seeking support, but they had not yet heard back. Cummings said that Trump had "basically ignored" the letters.

The Associated Press (10/25, Parshall) also reports

CONGRESS CONSIDERING SOLUTION TO MEDICARE ENROLLMENT CONFUSION. Forbes (10/25, Gleckman, 5.11M) reports on the Benefit Enrollment Notification and Eligibility Simplification (BENES) Act introduced in the House and Senate that aims to make enrollment in Medicare Part B easier for millions of seniors. The BENES Act would add a notification to those over 65 who are still working or have delayed Social Security benefits that clearly explains "Part B's enrollment rules, and the Medicare enrollment period would become aligned with those of other insurance programs." The article adds that 750,000 people in 2014 paid a late enrollment penalty because they failed to enroll. The BENES Act adds measures to ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services, the Social Security Administration and the IRS "would be able to work together to explain Medicare to those becoming eligible."

OPINION: HOME HEALTHCARE PROPOSAL WILL CUT MEDICARE FOR SENIORS. Dr. Steven Landers, President and CEO for VNA Health Group, writes in The Hill (10/24, 1.68M) to "wholeheartedly and unequivocally condemn the Trump administration's current proposal to cut Medicare home health services." Specifically, the Administration's Home Health Groupings Model (HHGM) is "a totally untested and unpredictable, ivory tower top-down Washington science project being foist on America's most vulnerable seniors and the home care nurses and caregivers they so deeply need and appreciate." HHGM will "aggressively cut home health payments" at the time when "our country needs to be strengthening our home health resources for an aging population."

Medicaid & CHIP:



ANALYSTS SAY MANAGED CARE MODEL COULD CUT NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COSTS IN HALF FOR SOME HEALTH PLANS. The Concord (NH) Monitor (10/26, DeWitt, 38K) reports that an analysis by actuaries at Milliman on behalf of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services showed that moving the state's Medicaid recipients to a managed care system could cut the costs to insure those patients by more than 50 percent. The Monitor explains that the savings comes from reimbursing providers at the lower Medicaid rates rather than at the negotiated-private insurance rates, which would happen if the state scraps its model of paying beneficiaries premium subsidies for individual exchange health insurance plans in favor of the managed care model. The proposal is "firmly hypothetical," but the commission responsible for stabilizing New Hampshire's insurance market discussed the analysis for two hours Monday.

TWO-THIRDS OF UTAH VOTERS SUPPORT BALLOT INITIATIVE FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION, POLL SAYS. The <u>Salt Lake (UT) Tribune</u> (10/25, 337K) reports a new poll commissioned by the Tribune and the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics found that 62 percent of Utahns "either strongly or somewhat support an initiative petition to put full Medicaid expansion on the state's November 2018 ballot." The initiative is supported by 92 percent of Democrats and 51 percent of Republicans. The proposal expects to receive an estimate of the law's fiscal impact next week, the next step before public hearings and collection of 113,143 petition signatures to get the issue on the ballot.

FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE IN TEXAS COULD RUN OUT SOONER BECAUSE OF HURRICANE HARVEY. The Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram (10/25, Tinsley, 399K) reports Hurricane Harvey "took more of a toll than realized," because "when federal officials waived enrollment fees and copays for impacted Children's Health Insurance Program recipients in Texas," that resulted in less money flowing into the program. The article discusses proposals in Congress to reauthorize funding for five years that "could reach the US Capitol floor any day." Carrie Williams, spokeswoman with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, said, "We're closely monitoring congressional efforts to reauthorize the program and are hopeful that it will be extended prior to the exhaustion of our current allotment."

PENNSYLVANIA SENATE PASSES BILL TO BAR CHIP COVERAGE FOR GENDER REASSIGNMENT SURGERY. The AP (10/25) reports the Pennsylvania Senate passed legislation Wednesday that would prohibit coverage for gender or sex reassignment surgery under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf (D) expanded coverage to such surgeries last year to comply with an Obama Administration rule, but that rule is "on hold in federal court and isn't being enforced by the Trump administration." The bill will proceed to the House.

HILTZIK: CONGRESS' FAILURE TO RENEW CHIP IS "SHAMEFUL." Michael Hiltzik writes in the Los Angeles Times (10/25, 4.49M) that among Congress' "most shameful failures" is "its failure to renew funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides coverage for about 9 million low-income children and pregnant women." Three weeks after CHIP expired on September 30, "more states are being forced to come to grips with the absence of funding in the near term," including Texas, where the effects of Hurricane Harvey have shortened the timetable that the program can remain funded.

OPINION: MASSACHUSETTS' MEDICAID WAIVER REQUEST FOR FORMULARY MAY REDUCE ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS. Karen Gromis, Interim Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, writes in The Hill (10/25, 1.68M) that one in five Massachusetts residents reported poor mental health in the past year and Medicaid covers one quarter of adults with mental illness. While Massachusetts is "usually is praised for providing healthcare for people living with chronic diseases and other serious health conditions," it has "requested an 1115 Waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would significantly reduce access to life-saving medications for Medicaid beneficiaries" by establishing the first "formulary" for Medicaid in the history of the program. Gromis says that, if approved, the proposed changes to the Massachusetts waiver "could set a dangerous precedent that could spread to other states, harming low-income Americans who depend on Medicaid across the country."

Health & Medical News:



MOST AMERICANS DON'T BELIEVE OWNING A GUN INCREASES SUICIDE RISK, SURVEY SAYS.

Reuters (10/25, Crist) reports that a study published Tuesday in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that "among 4,000 people surveyed recently, nearly 85 percent disagreed that the presence of a firearm in a home increased the risk of suicide." Harvard School of Public Health researcher Andrew Conner examined "data from a 2015 survey about firearm ownership," contrasting its results against CDC data showing that "in 2015, more than 44,000 people in the U.S. died by suicide, and half used firearms." The study's authors wrote, "Health care professionals must learn to communicate the risk" of potentially suicidal patients owning guns, "and talk about it with their patients."

NUMBER OF AMERICANS WITH HIGH TOTAL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS DECREASED IN 2016, CDC DATA SHOW. The Washington Post (10/26, Wan, 10.38M) reports that according to a new data brief by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of Americans with high total cholesterol decreased from 18.3 percent to 12.4 percent in 2016. According to the article, "Health experts attribute the positive results to several key factors: the public's growing awareness of high cholesterol's dangers, more people's health-conscious diets, the phaseout of artificial trans fats in the food supply and the use of cholesterol-lowering statin medications." The piece cites comments by Margaret Carroll, health statistician at the CDC and author of the data brief, who said, "It's gratifying news."

Reuters (10/26) reports that "the latest survey found that overall 12.4 percent of adults aged 20 and over had high total cholesterol compared with 18.3 percent in 1999-2000." Although the CDC's report does not offer an explanation for the decrease, chief of cardiology at Cleveland Clinic Dr. Steven Nissen, "who was not involved with the CDC report," said, "The use of statins has skyrocketed...My guess is the vast majority of this difference is due to the use of statins."

Additional coverage is provided by TIME (10/26, 5.85M) and MedPage Today (10/26, 60K).

STUDY DETAILS NEW RNA-BASED EDITING TOOL FOR REVERSIBLE GENE EDITING. The AP (10/25, Neergaard) reports that a new study published Wednesday in the journal Science examined ways to make gene edits using RNA rather than DNA. Feng Zhang of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard explained, "If you edit RNA, you can have a reversible therapy," which could be important in the event any side effects occur, as compared to DNA changes, where "accidentally cutting the wrong spot could lead to lasting side effects." However, "because RNA degrades over time, the changes theoretically would last only as long as the therapy was used." The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Marcus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that some of the ethical concerns that arise when editing DNA may not be relevant when editing RNA.

Vox (10/25, 1.54M) reports that since the discovery of the CRISPR/Cas9 technique enabling DNA editing, this has "become one of the most exciting and fast-moving areas of research, transforming everything from medicine to agriculture and energy." So far this year there have been more than 14,000 studies using CRISPR published. However, some problems with CRISPR have included "modifying unintended gene targets and making worrisome, and permanent, edits to an organism's genome" that "could be passed down through generations." This makes the new RNA study appealing, as it is "an entirely new gene editing tool" that would enable "transient changes to genetic material."

The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, Guarino, 10.38M) reports that the new technique shares "similarities with CRISPR." National Institutes of Health genomics researcher Eugene Koonin, while not involved in the new study, called it "an excellent advance" and "said the RNA editor could be used to treat conditions 'that are short term in nature, such as local inflammation and the like.'" <u>The Scientist</u> (10/25, 154K)also covers the study.

EATING ALONE MAY BE LINKED TO HIGHER RISK OF METABOLIC SYNDROME IN SOME PEOPLE, STUDY SUGGESTS. TIME (10/25, MacMillan, 5.85M) reports that research suggests "people who eat most of their meals alone may be at increased risk for heart disease and diabetes." Investigators "found that men who dined solo at least twice a day were more likely to have metabolic syndrome...compared to those who always dined with others." The <u>findings</u> were published in Obesity



Research & Clinical Practice.

MARYLAND REPORTS LOWEST LEVEL OF CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING CASES ON RECORD.

The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> (10/25, McDaniels, 706K) reports the state of Maryland said the number of childhood lead poisoning cases have fallen to their lowest level since 1994, the first year the state began tracking cases. Officials found that fewer than 0.3 percent of children tested in 2016 had levels higher than what state law deems dangerous, with levels falling "more than 98 percent since 1993, plummeting to 355 in 2016 from 14,546," showed a report publicized Wednesday by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

CUOMO ANNOUNCES STUDY INTO HIGH CANCER RATES IN FOUR NEW YORK AREAS. The New York Daily News (10/25, Lovett, 3.61M) reports New York Gov. Chris Cuomo (D) on Wednesday announced the state will conduct a study investigating why Staten Island, Long Island, Warren County, and some parts of western New York have higher rates of cancer than other areas. The one-year, \$500,000 study will "be undertaken by the state departments of health and environmental conservation." The article says cancer rates on Staten Island "among males were 13.48% higher than those for the city" of New York "as a whole," and for women rates "were 18.53% higher than the city rate as a whole."

The New York Post (10/25, Conley, Campanile, 4.31M) reports the announcement comes after "borough officials complained that Mayor [Bill] de Blasio didn't act on their requests for such a study." The article adds that Staten Island "accounted for 7.16 percent of New York City's cancer incidences, while only accounting for 5.5 percent of the population."

RESEARCHERS UNVEIL VIRTUAL HUMAN BRAIN CELLS. NPR (10/25, 2.4M) reports in its "Shots" blog that on Wednesday, researchers at The Allen Institute for Brain Science unveiled "three-dimensional computer reconstructions of living human brain cells by studying tissue that is usually discarded during surgery." The article notes that earlier in the week, the Institute "received grants worth nearly \$100 million from the National Institutes of Health" in order to "expand its research on cell types in the brains of mice and people."

TRICLOSAN 6 APPEARS TO ACCUMULATE IN TOOTHBRUSHES OVER TIME, IS RELEASED INTO A PERSON'S MOUTH AFTER THEY SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT TYPE OF TOOTHPASTE. The Boston Globe (10/25, Meyers, 969K) reports that triclosan 6, "a chemical contained in some brands of toothpaste, accumulates in toothbrushes over time and is then released into a person's mouth when they switch to a different type of toothpaste," researchers concluded in a study published online in Environmental Science and Technology. The study team, "as well as the US Food and Drug Administration, does not consider oral exposure to toothpastes that contain triclosan a health risk, but triclosan is banned in other personal products such as soaps, gels, and sanitary wipes," the Globe points out. Currently, "the FDA warns that some studies of triclosan on animals show exposure to the ingredient is associated with low levels of thyroid hormones, and others suggest it could help bacterial diseases resist antibiotics."

TIME (10/25, Sifferlin, 5.85M) reports, "The researchers say that the FDA does not consider mouth exposure to triclosan toothpastes to be a health risk." Currently, the chemical "is found in toothpastes that are marketed as antibacterial, and Colgate is currently the only brand that makes toothpaste that contains triclosan." Should people "want to avoid triclosan while brushing their teeth, the researchers recommend changing to a toothpaste without triclosan and buying a new toothbrush."

<u>HealthDay</u> (10/25, Preidt, 11K) reports that after testing "22 brushes and a variety of toothpastes," investigators found that "more than one-third of the toothbrushes tested, including two children's varieties, accumulated amounts of triclosan equivalent to seven to 12 doses of the amount used per brushing."

RESEARCHERS SAY TYPE 3C DIABETES MAY BE MORE COMMON THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. The New York Daily News (10/25, Gibbs, 3.61M) reports UK researchers "say Type 3c diabetes may be more common than previously thought, saying some people with Type 2 may have been misdiagnosed." In research published online in Diabetes Care, the study authors "found that about 1.5% of 31,789 new cases of diabetes over a 10 year period were diagnosed as Type 2 instead of Type 3c."



According to the Daily News, "a National Institutes of Health <u>study</u> from 2008 also identified Type 3c as an underdiagnosed form of diabetes, but still many people aren't aware of it."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/25, Kelly, 541K) reports, "Type 3c diabetes, which occurs after a trauma to the pancreas, requires a stronger medical intervention than Type 2 – making a misdiagnosis particularly dangerous." A corresponding author on the study wrote, "People with Type 3c diabetes were twice as likely to have poor blood sugar control than those with Type 2 diabetes." In addition, they are "five to ten times more likely to need insulin, depending on their type of pancreas disease."

HUMAN FEAR RESPONSE MAKES LONG-TERM RISK PLANNING DIFFICULT. The New York Times (10/26, Murphy, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports scientists say fear and the "fight, flight or freeze response" can save us from imminent harm but "can often get in our way in modern life." According to Ahmad Hariri, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Duke University, "Change has occurred so rapidly for our species that now we are equipped with brains that are super sensitive to threat but also super capable of planning, thinking, forecasting and looking ahead," so "we essentially drive ourselves nuts worrying about things because we have too much time and don't have many real threats on our survival, so fear gets expressed in these really strange, maladaptive ways." The times report that "according to the National Institute of Mental Health, roughly 18 percent of the United States population is afflicted with persistent, outsized fear responses to seemingly ordinary stimuli."

OP-ED URGES GOVERNMENT TO FUND GUN VIOLENCE STUDIES LIKE IT DOES CANCER RESEARCH. In an op-ed for <u>CNN</u> (10/25, Rosenthal, 33.59M) Marjorie S. Rosenthal, an associate professor of pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine and a current colon cancer patient, notes that "the federal government spends over \$5 billion on cancer research and over \$200 million on colon cancer research." She then says "there may be no cure for gun violence, either," but notes that "unlike with cancer, we do not study the problem to see if we might be able to improve the numbers." Rosenthal notes that President Obama "issued an executive order reinstating gun violence prevention research at the National Institutes of Health" following the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, and that "NIH sponsored \$18 million worth of research until the order lapsed in Jan 2017."

National News:

TRUMP: DEMOCRATS' ROLE IN RUSSIA DOSSIER CREATION "A DISGRACE." Coverage of the news that elements of the Democratic Party helped to fund the Fusion GPS dossier on then-candidate Donald Trump focuses mainly on negative aspects for the Democrats. The President's comments on the news get some attention, but much more is given to how much Hillary Clinton and her campaign knew, and who authorized the payments. Also at issue – particularly in conservative media – is the FBI's role in the affair.

NBC Nightly News (10/25, story 3, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported that Trump "[tore] into Democrats and former rival Hillary Clinton over reports that the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee helped fund opposition research that wound up in a dossier, containing salacious and unverified allegations about him." Trump: "They were embarrassed by it. I think it's a disgrace. It's just really, it's a very sad, it's a very sad commentary on politics in this country."

The AP (10/25, Tucker) reports, "Trump and fellow Republicans latched onto revelations tying" the Clinton campaign to the dossier, and Politico (10/25, Cheney, 3.6M) reports that Republicans "mounted a counterattack this week against the drumbeat from multiple investigations into Moscow's meddling...in a dizzying 24 hours." Trump said on Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight (10/25, 352K), "Don't forget Hillary Clinton totally denied this. She didn't know anything. She knew nothing all of a sudden they found out. What I was amazed at it's almost \$6 million that they paid and it's totally discredited. It's a total phony. I call it fake news. It's disgraceful." The New York Post (10/25, Moore, 4.31M) reports that the President also tweeted, "Clinton campaign & DNC paid for research that led to the anti-Trump Fake News Dossier. The victim here is the President.' @FoxNews".



<u>Politico</u> (10/25, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that when asked by reporters about which Republican might have initially funded it, Trump said, "If I were to guess, I have one name in mind. It'll probably be revealed. I'd rather not say, but you'll be surprised. You'll be surprised." <u>Breitbart</u> (10/25, Spiering, 2.42M) also runs that quote from the President in a brief item.

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/25, Boyer, 541K) reports that Trump also told reporters that "given the revelations about the dossier and fresh investigations into a uranium deal with a Russian firm approved by the Obama administration, the Russia controversy has 'turned around' on the Democrats." Trump said, "This was the Democrats coming up with an excuse for losing an election. They lost it very badly. They didn't know what to say, so they made up the whole Russia hoax. Now it's turning out that the whole hoax is turned around." However, in <u>Politico Magazine</u> (10/25, 3.55M), Jack Shafer calls that "a valiant stab at magical thinking by Baby Donald, but the dossier is only a slice of the evidentiary pie being thrown at him. As the anti-Trump Republican operative Rick Wilson tweeted, even if the dossier was 'a farrago of utter fantasy,' other US government and foreign intelligence findings point to Trump's Kremlin entanglements."

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) <u>tweeted</u>, "Crooked Hillary has been behind Russian collusion allegations all along! Shame on her for wasting officials' time!" Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) <u>tweeted</u>, "Hillary Clinton & the DNC lied to Americans about paying for the development of the false Trump dossier." Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) <u>tweeted</u>, "The corrupt DNC and Clinton camp paid for a fake Russian dossier about our president! Democrats can't be trusted."

Conservative commentators are weighing in. David French of National Review (10/25, 892K) writes, "We don't know what role the Russia dossier has played or is playing in the Russia investigation. ... But we did learn a bit more last night, and what we learned undermines the dossier, indicts the Clinton campaign, and helps Donald Trump." Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist (10/25, 88K) writes, "Here we have the realization that the Clinton campaign, the DNC, and the FBI all worked wittingly or unwittingly with Russians to affect the results of the 2016 election. ... These efforts perverted our justice system by forcing the attorney general to recuse himself for the crime of having attended meetings with Russian diplomats and spawning a massive, sprawling, limitless probe over Russia." Matt Vespa of Townhall (10/25, 523K) writes, "My, oh my – how the tables have turned."

The Hill (10/25, Fabian, Easley, 1.68M) also reports on the President's remarks.

Clinton Camp "Largely Silent"; Current DNC Leadership Says It Was Not Involved. On ABC World News Tonight (10/25, story 3, 2:20, Muir, 14.63M), Brian Ross reported, "Until now, Hillary Clinton and her campaign team would not admit any connection to the Trump dossier," which "was produced for a Washington-based firm called Fusion GPS, which had actually started digging up dirt on Trump for an unknown Republican during the primaries. After several Republican candidates dropped out, the Clinton campaign and the Democrats secretly paid Fusion GPS to continue their research efforts. ... Former Clinton campaign spokesperson Brian Fallon said the Democrats did nothing wrong." Fallon: "I think it's important to remember that opposition research happens all the time in campaigns."

On the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/25, story 6, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M), Jeff Pegues reported, "The 35-page dossier details some of the most explosive allegations now under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. ... Until now, some top Clinton campaign officials have denied knowing who was behind the effort to dig up dirt." Fallon: "I'm sure that there's a small group of folks that were aware of the nature of the decision the hire Fusion back in the spring of 2016. But it was kept for reasons that I understand to a very select group, given the sensitive nature of who they hired."

The Washington Post (10/25, Hamburger, Helderman, 10.38M) reports that "Clinton and top officials of her presidential campaign were largely silent" on Wednesday "in response to the revelation that the campaign and the Democratic National Committee had paid for research that resulted" in the dossier. Fallon "said he didn't know about the research at the time but called it 'money well spent' if it provided information useful to the special counsel now investigating Russia's involvement." The Daily Mail (10/25, Earle, 5.15M) reports that Fallon told CNN that Clinton "may have' known about her campaign's funding of the infamous dossier." He told CNN, "I haven't spoken to her, no. … She may have known. The degree



of exactly what she knew is beyond my knowledge."

Becket Adams of the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (10/25, 465K) writes that either Clinton "knew nothing about her campaign's role in financing the dossier" and "is guilty of nothing worse than ignorance" but was deceived by her staff, or that she "has known about the dossier this entire time, and she has been misrepresenting what she knows. Any way you cut it, it doesn't reflect well on Clinton or her team."

The Hill (10/25, Easley, 1.68M) reports that Democratic National Committee representatives said that Chairman Tom Perez, "who only became the Democratic leader in April, had nothing to do with the arrangement," and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), the DNC's deputy chairman, "emphasized that both he and Perez came to the DNC long after the contract with Fusion GPS had ended." Ellison said, "Tom and me, we weren't even there at the time. I know as much about it as you guys who have reported it." A spokesman for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who was DNC chair at the time, said, "She was not aware of anything related to this research arrangement." The Daily Caller (10/25, Hasson, 521K) reports that the DNC "released a carefully-worded statement meant to distance current party leader from the dossier." The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorializes that it appears that the Democrats paid for Russian operatives to compile the dossier, which is a form of collusion in itself.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), ranking member on the House Oversight Committee, said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (10/25, 1.06M), "All of this, to me, is unfortunately a distraction from the things that we need to be doing. ... But I think the American people need to understand the whole role that Russia is now playing in our elections and will continue to play and they need to keep in mind that the highest ranking law enforcement person in the country has said basically – and that is Attorney General Sessions – that there is no investigation from his office's standpoint."

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/25, Boyer, 541K) reports that the Campaign Legal Center has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission alleging that Clinton's campaign and the DNC violated campaign finance law by failing to disclose payments for the dossier.

FBI's Role Now Under Scrutiny. Byron York of the Washington Examiner (10/25, 465K) writes, "Knowing that the Clinton campaign [and] the DNC...supported the dossier is not the end of the story. The most important next step is the FBI." According to the Washington Post, dossier compiler Christopher Steele "reached an agreement with the FBI a few weeks before the election for the bureau to pay him to continue his work." It was an astonishing turn: the nation's top federal law enforcement agency agreeing to fund an ongoing opposition research project being conducted by one of the candidates in the midst of a presidential election."

House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes said on Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight (10/25, 3.63M), "I think the next focus is going to be on whether or not did the FBI use this dossier to get any warrants, did they use it to open a counter intelligence investigation. And if they did, if they're using unverified information to open up inquiries into American citizens, I think we have a big problem." David Harsanyi of The Federalist (10/25, 88K) asks, "How often did the FBI use the dossier as a pretext for FISA warrants? Seems like a reasonable question."

Newsday (NY) (10/25, Goldschlag, 1.64M) reports that though "the question of who paid for the 'Russia dossier' on Trump is now partly answered, still open is the question of who might pay, in the form of legal jeopardy, if some of its more explosive but unverified contents are found credible" by Mueller.

Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations tweeted, "And before that it was paid for by anti-Trump GOPer. So what? Doesn't affect whether it's true. And it's not reason for Mueller probe." ABC political analyst Matthew Dowd tweeted, "Mueller's investigation has little to do with dossier. Much bigger issues." Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin tweeted that the news is "a nothing burger just to give Fox something to cover all day."

Judge Gives Fusion GPS Until Thursday To Answer Congressional Subpoena. Reuters (10/25,



Hosenball) reports that US District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan has given Fusion GPS "until Thursday to reach an agreement with Congress over a subpoena for the firm's bank records." The House Intelligence Committee has "subpoenaed an unidentified bank for the last two years of records of the accounts of Fusion GPS."

Trump: Uranium One Deal Is Modern-Day "Watergate." The Hill (10/25, Beavers, 1.68M) reports Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley tweeted that he is seeking the appointment of a special counsel "to investigate the Uranium One deal that gave a Russian-owned company partial control of US atomic energy resources in 2010" – a deal that the President compared to Watergate on Wednesday. The Washington Times (10/25, Boyer, 541K) reports that Trump told reporters, "I think the uranium sale to Russia and the way it was done so underhanded, with tremendous amounts of money being passed, I actually think that's 'Watergate,' modern age."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Johnson, 8.62M) reports that the DOJ has "lifted a gag order on an FBI informant to provide testimony to Congress" about the Uranium One deal. <u>The Hill</u> (10/25, Solomon, 1.68M) reports, "Multiple congressional committees have been seeking to interview the informant, whose name has not been released publicly."

Assange Says He Rejected Help Offer From Cambridge Analytica. The New York Times (10/25, Confessore, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said on Wednesday "that he had rebuffed a request for help last year" from the head of Cambridge Analytica, a data firm that worked for Trump. Assange "did not disclose what kind of help [was] sought, only that he had declined the request." Assange tweeted, "I can confirm an approach by Cambridge Analytica [prior to November last year] and can confirm that it was rejected by WikiLeaks."

The Hill (10/25, Chalfant, 1.68M) reports that the Trump campaign "appeared to distance itself" from Cambridge Analytica on Wednesday after it was reported that CEO Alexander Nix sought contact with Assange over Clinton's emails. The <u>Daily Beast</u> (10/25, 988K) reports that Assange told Nix "that he didn't want his help, and preferred to do the work on his own." In related news, <u>Politico</u> (10/25, Gerstein, 3.6M) reports that the Trump campaign argued in a court filing that WikiLeaks' publication of hacked DNC emails "was legal and specifically protected by federal law."

Rove: Impeachment Push Could Hurt Democrats. Karl Rove writes in his Wall Street Journal (10/25, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) column that billionaire Tom Steyer's injection of \$10 million into a push to impeach the President moves the matter beyond the back benches of the House, but could ultimately hurt the Democratic Party by resulting in a focus on Trump rather than on an electoral strategy.

TRUMP WOULD "LOVE TO DO A DACA DEAL," BUT WOULD REQUIRE WALL IN EXCHANGE. The Los Angeles Times (10/25, Bennett, 4.49M) reports President Trump "said Wednesday he would 'love' to make an immigration deal to protect so-called Dreamers, but wants border security concessions in exchange, including money to build his long-promised wall along the border with Mexico." The President told reporters, "I'd love to do a DACA deal, but we have to get something very substantial for it, including the wall."

Breitbart (10/25, Spiering, 2.42M) recounts that "in recent weeks, the president has appeared to walk back reports that he agreed to a DACA deal with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, after his reported remarks threw his base into an uproar." However, "the White House has since released a wish list of demands on border funding or border security that Democrats have declared 'anathema."

Ryan Says He Wants Legislation To Protect Dreamers. House Speaker Ryan told Reuters (10/25) Wednesday that he wants Congress to pass legislation to protect Dreamers, but he "offered no timetable, with existing safeguards due to expire in March." Asked if lawmakers could deal with the legislation this year, Ryan said, "I don't know when we're going to do it. We're having lots of discussions on how to do it, and the timing is something that's just open to debate." Ryan added, "I want to do it. … The goal is: we want to fix this and we're working on it, and we want to make sure that we do it in such a way that we



don't have the same problem down the road - that means border security and interior enforcement."

Citing its <u>report</u> that members of the Republican Study Committee said that Ryan "is planning to put together a spending deal that includes giving amnesty to the DACA illegal aliens," <u>Breitbart</u> (10/25, Binder, 2.42M) reports that the "plan to attach amnesty to a spending bill comes less than a month after Breitbart News confirmed that a DACA recipient allegedly murdered a high school student in South Carolina."

Harris Says She Won't Support Spending Bill Without A Plan For Dreamers. The Los Angeles Times (10/25, Wire, 4.49M) reports that Sen. Kamala Harris said Wednesday that she will not support a bill to keep the government open "unless Congress has a legislative fix to address" Dreamers. At a news conference Wednesday, Harris said, "I will not vote for an end-of-year spending bill until we are clear about what we are going to do to protect and take care of our DACA young people in this country. ... Each day in the life of these young people is a very long time, and we've got to stop playing politics with their lives."

TRUMP SAYS BORDER WALL WILL BE "VERY EFFECTIVE." President Trump said on Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight (10/25, 352K) that the border wall "is coming along. We're building right now prototypes. We have six prototypes. I'm going to be looking at them over the next three weeks. ... We're going to take a look at the wall and we're going to get it built and it's going to be quite the wall. It's going to be very effective."

WPOST ANALYSIS: STEINLE MURDER "RALLYING CRY" FOR TRUMP'S "HARD-LINE IMMIGRATION POLICIES." The Washington Post (10/25, Phillips, 10.38M) reports on the trial of Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, the illegal immigrant accused of killing Kathryn Steinle. The case "became a rallying cry for President Trump as he pushed for hard-line immigration policies." The Post says the fact that "a young woman was killed by an illegal immigrant with seven previous felony convictions and who had been deported five times did not get lost in the political debate after Steinle's death. Nor was the fact that the shooting happened in a sanctuary city, where local officials released Garcia Zarate from custody just days before Steinle was shot."

LAWMAKERS QUESTION NO-BID CONTRACT TO REBUILD PUERTO RICO'S POWER LINES. Julianna Goldman reported in the lead story for the CBS Evening News (10/25, lead story, 2:55, Mason, 11.17M) that 75% of Puerto Rico "is still without power, and lawmakers in both parties are asking why a small Montana company was granted a \$300 million no-bid contract to help rebuild transmission and distribution lines." The \$300 million contract with Whitefish Energy "is the biggest yet for Puerto Rico's recovery effort, and for Whitefish, which relies on subcontractors for their work." Goldman added that Whitefish's "founder and general partner Joe Colonnetta gave \$33,000 to the campaign of then-Texas governor and now Energy Secretary Rick Perry. Colonnetta and his wife gave \$28,200 to President Trump." Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanski "knows Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke," but both the Interior Department and Whitefish say Zinke "played no role in the contract, and the company says Colonnetta didn't either."

The New York Post (10/25, Tacopino, 4.31M) reports that Whitefish "threatened on Wednesday to pull its 44 workers from San Juan over Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz's criticism of the contract." Whitefish "blasted Yulin Cruz after she said their no-bid contract to repair the island's power gird should be 'voided' and a more transparent process should take place." In response, the company wrote on Twitter, "We've got 44 linemen rebuilding power lines in your city & 40 more men just arrived. Do you want us to send them back or keep working?" The Los Angeles Times (10/25, Pearce, 4.49M) says many saw "the company's tweets as a threat to abandon the island," an interpretation the company denied.

ADMINISTRATION TO INSTALL EMERGENCY MANAGER AT PUERTO RICO POWER AUTHORITY. The Washington Post (10/25, Mufson, Davis, 10.38M) reports the over the objections of Puerto Rico's governor, the Trump Administration and Puerto Rico's financial oversight board "are moving to install an emergency manager at the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority." Two people familiar with the plan say it "would appoint Noel Zamot, currently in charge of revitalization for the oversight board, to oversee the



utility with his own small team to monitor day-to-day operations." the plan comes amid concerns from OMB Director Mulvaney and lawmakers "over how the bankrupt utility, with \$9 billion in debt, would manage the surge of federal money to repair and possibly upgrade the electric power infrastructure."

AP ANALYSIS: RECOVERY HIGHLIGHTS PUERTO RICO'S INEQUALITY. The AP (10/25, Long) reports that Puerto Rico's recovery from Hurricane Maria is highlighting inequality on the island. While much of Puerto Rico is still without power, "wealthier residents are sealed up in air conditioned homes with their generators and bottled water, or have fled the island altogether for extended vacations, while the poorest are left swatting mosquitoes in sweltering heat and trying to secure enough water."

ICE, NATIONAL GUARD WORK TOGETHER ON PUERTO RICO AID EFFORTS. The New York Post (10/25, Cohen, 4.31M) reports on two New Yorkers, one working for ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and one a member of the New York National Guard, who "met each other and hundreds of other New Yorkers on the ground" in Puerto Rico, "all teaming up to aid communities cut off by Hurricane Maria."

CHEF ANDRÉS TO SCALE BACK HIS EFFORT TO FEED PUERTO RICANS. The New York Times (10/25, Severson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that chef José Andrés "has fed more Puerto Ricans freshly cooked meals than any other relief organization working there." His effort, which "began with makeshift pots of the classic island stew called sancocho, served in front of a damaged restaurant, quickly grew into a network of 18 kitchens around the island." As of Tuesday, "his crew of chefs, cooking students, pastors, food-truck drivers and hundreds of volunteers has served...close to two million meals and handmade sandwiches." However, with FEMA "offering more contracts to local food suppliers and the Puerto Rican economy starting to slowly kick into gear, it's time to pull back, Mr. Andrés said." Andrés will "close down his main cooking operation in [San Juan's] Coliseo de Puerto Rico," and "shift to a more strategic approach aimed at feeding the elderly, the sick and people in remote communities, including Ponce, Humacao, Naguabo and Viegues."

TRUMP: TAX CUTS WILL CREATE "SO MANY JOBS." Asked about tax reform on Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight (10/25, 352K), President Trump said, "I think we're going to get [tax cuts]. I think the senators are going to come together. I think the House is looking really good." Trump also said that "we're bringing the corporate rate down to 20 percent from 35 percent. This will be is the biggest tax cut in history in the history of our country and that's great and we need it because right now our country is about the highest taxed or certainly one of the highest taxed in the world and we can't have that." Trump added, "We are going to have so many jobs created by what we're doing and you know we're going to have companies that aren't leaving our country any more."

ON TAX REFORM, TRUMP SIGNALS OPENNESS TO NEGOTIATING 401(K) PROVISIONS. The Hill (10/25, Fabian, 1.68M) reports President Trump "said Wednesday changes to retirement savings accounts could still be included in the Republican tax plan, backing away from his previous insistence they not be touched." The President told reporters, "Maybe it is and maybe we'll use it as negotiating." The President "was responding to comments from Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Texas), the top tax writer in the House, who said earlier Wednesday that lawmakers may still change the tax status of 401(k) plans to help pay for tax cuts." The New York Post (10/25, Dugan, 4.31M) indicates Trump "said he 'may be willing to negotiate" on the issue, but the AP (10/25, Gordon) notes he also said, "But trust me ... There are certain elements of deals you don't want to negotiate with ... And Kevin knows it, and I think Kevin Brady is fantastic, but he knows how important 401(k)s are."

Politico (10/25, Lorenzo, 3.6M) recalls that "when reports of the 401(k) discussions surfaced last week, Trump threw cold water on the idea," but "Brady said talks on the issue were ongoing," telling reporters, "We are continuing discussions with the president, all focused on saving more, saving sooner."

Bloomberg News (10/25, Kapur, Pettypiece, Litvan, 4.52M) also says "Brady didn't rule out changes to the retirement plans," and Reuters (10/25, Cornwell) indicates he "was expected to introduce tax overhaul legislation next week, as Trump has long promised." GOP leaders "want Congress to approve the measure by the end of this year. It includes a sharp cut in the corporate tax rate." In a front-page story, the Wall Street Journal (10/25, A1, Rubin, Tergesen, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports



Republicans have not yet settled on a course of action on the 401(k) issue.

ROSS: BEST WAY TO FOR TAX CUTS IS ECONOMIC GROWTH. Commerce Secretary Ross said on CNBC's Closing Bell (10/25, 156K), "The real way to pay for the tax cuts is by stimulating the economy and generating more tax revenue. If we can get the economy up one percent a year more than where it otherwise would have been, that generates two and a half trillion dollars over ten years. So the real debate is over the technicalities, how much growth will you really get from the tax cut?"

BRADY: DEAL IN WORKS TO PRESERVE PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION. USA Today (10/25, Jackson, 8.62M) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady told a breakfast hosted by The Christian Science Monitor Wednesday that a deal is being crafted to preserve at least a portion of the deduction for local property taxes. Brady said, "I expect ... before the bill is laid out next week, that a solution will be announced. ... It's a work in progress, I think we're making good progress." While Brady did not divulge details of the deal, "he indicated it might affect only property taxes and not state income taxes, because the property tax burden does not take into account someone's ability to pay."

PAUL SAYS ELIMINATION OF DEDUCTIONS COULD RESULT IN A TAX INCREASE. Sen. Rand Paul said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (10/25, 2.07M), "The details are important and that is why I've been advocating very loudly for the last couple weeks to the personally to the President, personally to the budget director and to the American people at large that if you keep middle rate, 25 percent, the same and you get rid of big deductions you could have tax increase. The President assured me won't let that happen. He has told his people not to let it happen. But I am going to continue to watch and advocate as it goes through the committee process in the House and the Senate because if you have a big tax increase on those in the middle and have tax reduction on bottom and top that is a problem."

RYAN: TAX CUT PLAN ENTERING "CLASS 5 RAPIDS." House Speaker Ryan told Reuters (10/25, Morgan) Wednesday that the GOP tax cut plan is entering a difficult phase as lobbyists seek to protect tax breaks. Ryan said, "When the details come, that is when you're going to see K Street coming to Congress. And that's why this hasn't been done for 31 years." Referring to "white-water rafting to describe how the tax overhaul effort is entering its toughest phase," Ryan said, "We've been going through Class 3 rapids, which is a pleasant ride. It's nice. Everybody pretty much stays in the boat and it's pretty good. But we're about to go through Class 5 rapids, which is the biggest rapid you can go through. … We've got to make sure that everybody stays in the boat and we get the boat down the river."

GOP CONCERNS OVER ELIMINATING SALT DEDUCTION COULD COMPLICATE HOUSE BUDGET VOTE. The Washington Post (10/25, Debonis, Newmyer, 10.38M) reports that with the House scheduled to "cast a critical budget vote Thursday which would set out key parameters for the tax bill and pave the way for Republicans to pass it without Democratic cooperation," Republican leaders "made a frantic attempt Wednesday to keep their aggressive tax overhaul effort on schedule." This, as some Republicans "concerned about the effort to eliminate or limit the existing deduction for state and local taxes have threatened to vote no, potentially blocking the legislation's progress." House Speaker Ryan told Reuters Wednesday that a full repeal of the state- and local-tax deduction, also known as "SALT," is not likely and deal would have to be reached. Ryan said, "I think there's a way of addressing the concerns that our members have from middle-income taxpayers in those states so that they are net winners in tax reform as well." However, Rep. Leonard Lance told Reuters (10/25, Becker, Cornwell) "he was not interested in a compromise at this time, and instead wanted the repeal provision taken off the table." Lance said, "I will be voting no on the budget tomorrow."

SUMMERS OFFERS FIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR TAX REFORM. Former Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers writes in the Washington Post (10/25, 10.38M) that he supports "tax reform in general and especially corporate tax reform on the model of the highly successful bipartisan 1986 tax reform." Summers goes on to suggest "five elements in the spirit of 1986." They are: "Reduce rates but not revenue," "Broaden the corporate base by limiting international sheltering," "Work to increase neutrality across investments and means of financing," "Attack tax shelters," and "Eliminate special benefits for noncorporate business – instead of adding to them." Summers writes that his "very rough guess would be



that this approach to tax reform outlined here would enable a corporate rate in the high 20s and would over the long-term enlarge the economy a bit, perhaps 2 percent, by increasing incentives for domestic production and making the allocation of capital more efficient."

ADMINISTRATION MAY BACK GAS TAX HIKE TO PAY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN. The Hill (10/25, Zanona, 1.68M) reports "the White House may back the first hike in the federal gasoline tax in decades in order to pay for President Trump's \$1 trillion infrastructure package." The Hill adds "Trump's economic adviser Gary Cohn told moderate House lawmakers at a private meeting on Wednesday that they'll get a chance to vote on a gas tax hike early next year as part of an infrastructure bill." A "Meeting participant" tells The Hill, "Cohn seemed receptive to it." Moreover, "an industry source tells The Hill that the White House intends to back a 7-cent gas tax increase to pay for US roads, bridges, highways and other public works, though it's unclear if the proposal would be included in initial infrastructure legislation or if the administration will push to have it added at the committee level."

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: KELLY ECHOES TRUMP ON KEY ISSUES AND STYLE. Peter Baker of the New York Times (10/25, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) writes in an analysis piece, "While some officials had predicted [that John] Kelly would be a calming chief of staff for an impulsive president, recent days have made clear that he is more aligned with President Trump than anticipated. For all of the talk" of Kelly "as a moderating force and the so-called grown-up in the room, it turns out that he harbors strong feelings on patriotism, national security and immigration that mirror the hard-line views of his outspoken boss." With his conflict with Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Kelly "showed that he was willing to escalate a politically distracting, racially charged public fight even with false assertions."

TRUMP SAYS HE RECALLED SOLDIER'S NAME "RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING" DURING CONDOLENCE CALL. The Washington Post (10/25, Parker, 10.38M) reports that President Trump on Wednesday refuted Myeshia Johnson's claim that he did not recall her husband, Army Sgt. La David Johnson's, name during a condolence call, "reviv[ing] the controversy over his handling" of the call and "calling into question the memories of others who heard the conversation." Speaking to reporters on the South Lawn of the White House, Trump said "I certainly respect La David, who I, by the way, called La David right from the beginning. ... Just so you understand, they put a chart in front — 'La David,' it says 'La David Johnson.' So I called right from the beginning." Pointing to his head, Trump added, "One of the great memories of all time. ... There's no hesitation."

David Muir said on <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (10/25, story 2, 1:10, 14.63M) that the President is "seeming to question the widow's account." Cecilia Vega agreed, saying, "He is, and Sergeant Johnson's wife said the phone call made her cry even more. He is continuing to refute her account of the story. Today he said, quote, all of these calls are about warmth and that nobody has more respect for the families than he did."

Wilson Says She's Staying Away From DC Due To Threats. The Miami Herald (10/25, Daugherty, 701K) cites "a source close to" Rep. Frederica Wilson who confirmed Wednesday that she "was not in Washington this week due to ongoing threats against her after she criticized President Donald Trump's handling" of the conversation with Johnson's family. Rep. Alcee Hastings said he expects Wilson to return next week.

DISMISSING FLAKE, CORKER CRITICISM, TRUMP SAYS THERE'S "GREAT UNITY" IN GOP.

President Trump on Wednesday continued to criticize GOP Sens. Bob Corker and Jeff Flake over their attacks on him – but he also dismissed the notion that the discord signaled deep divides within the GOP. Trump said on Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight (10/25, 352K), "We have actually in the Republican Party in a true sense we have great unity. Look at the Democrats with Bernie Sanders, who got absolutely taken advantage of by the DNC and now you see that all of this stuff coming out, you see what's happening. But you look at Hillary and Bernie, that's big league stuff. We have very, very minor – we have great unity. I was with the Senate yesterday – the entire Republican Senate – and other than two people, I tell you there was a lot of love in that room."

On the CBS Evening News (10/25, story 3, 2:20, 11.17M), Anthony Mason reported that Trump "denied



today that" the GOP is "divided, despite evidence to the contrary, including" Corker and Flake on Tuesday "calling him an habitual liar and a danger to democracy." CBS's Nancy Cordes added that "Flake's call to arms was met with mutiny today, as GOP colleagues refused to open fire on Mr. Trump. ... They're holding back partly because the Trump White House is key to their agenda on issues like tax reform." Cordes added that Trump "insisted today that party friction has been overblown. He repeatedly mentioned the standing ovations he got at yesterday's lunch with Senate Republicans."

On NBC Nightly News (10/25, story 2, 2:30, 16.61M), Lester Holt reported, "A day after [Corker and Flake] stood up to the President, in terms we've rarely heard, there were largely crickets from other elected Republicans today, quieting speculation that a floodgate of resistance might quickly follow, and emboldening Mr. Trump who happily stood before the cameras to shrug off those damning remarks." Trump was shown telling reporters, "I think the Republican party has a pretty good unity." NBC's Hallie Jackson called Trump's appearance before reporters "a victory lap for the President as a brewing Republican resistance simply hasn't materialized one day after two retiring Republicans slammed the President's character."

In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (10/25, lead story, 2:45, 14.63M), David Muir said that Trump on Wednesday responded, "after coming under attack from" Corker and Flake. Trump "was asked if he accepts any blame about the civility or lack thereof in politics and in Washington right now." Trump was shown saying, "Well, I think the press makes me more uncivil than I am. People don't understand. I went to an Ivy League college. I was a nice student. I did very well. I'm a very intelligence person." ABC's Cecilia Vega added that Corker and Flake "said that...politics is in the gutter right now. Do you agree with that, do you bear any responsibility for that?" Trump was shown responding, "Well, I think it's sad, but I think to a large extent, in all due respect, I think the media causes a lot of it, but politics is a rough business."

The New York Times (10/25, Sullivan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that on Twitter, Trump on Wednesday morning took aim at the two GOP lawmakers, tweeting, "They had zero chance of being elected. Now act so hurt & wounded." USA Today (10/25, Jackson, 8.62M) reports that Trump on Wednesday brushed "aside criticism from [Corker and Flake]," tweeting that "he had a great meeting with the rest of the GOP caucus" a day earlier, "even calling it a 'love fest." Trump is quoted as tweeting, "The meeting with Republican Senators yesterday, outside of Flake and Corker, was a love fest with standing ovations and great ideas for USA!"

The <u>Washington Times</u> (10/25, Miller, Boyer, 541K) reports that Trump on Wednesday "touted 'great unity' in the" GOP "and dismissed flashes of insurgency,." However, says the Times, Flake's "self-immolation...highlighted the struggle for the soul of the GOP, which has been raging for years between tea party and chamber of commerce types. For now, the Trump wing appears to be on the ascent."

The <u>Arizona Republic</u> (10/25, Nowicki, 968K) reports that Trump, speaking briefly with reporters, "shrugged off Flake's criticism, insisting there is 'great unity between him and the Senate's GOP members." Trump said of Flake, "Look, he was against me from before he ever knew me. He wrote a book about me before I ever met him, before I ever heard his name. His poll numbers in Arizona are so low that he couldn't win. And I don't blame him for leaving. I think he did the right thing for himself." The Republic adds, however, that Trump "has been bashing Flake on Twitter since at least September 2016. And they had a face-to-face confrontation even earlier, in July 2016. Flake's book – 'Conscience of a Conservative: A Rejection of Destructive Politics and a Return to Principle' – was published Aug. 1."

Flake said on CNN's New Day (10/25, 703K), "It's very difficult to be re-elected in the Republican Party right now, and Arizona in particular. It doesn't matter so much the policies that you adopt or your votes. It's if you're with the President. I can't be with the President at all times. I'm sorry. I think when the President is wrong, you ought to call him out. That's what I tried to point out in the speech yesterday." Flake added, "I think we've hit the tipping point. There is just the weight of it causes people to change and to say I can't take this anymore. I hope we've reached that point."

Flake said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (10/25, 1.06M), "I said in the speech last night that we are excusing



undignified, and outrageous and reckless speech and behavior as telling it like it is. You know, the President is not politically correct. That's not right. I think we ought to say this is speech that is reckless and it's undignified and until we do, we are complicit in normalizing that kind of behavior."

Even so, Politico (10/25, Kim, 3.6M) reported that in a Wednesday interview with conducted with Flake, the Arizona Republican said "that he's not 'vindictive' – suggesting he won't simply be a knee-jerk vote against Trump's agenda. 'I don't know that it's that different. I'm going to work on issues that I'm for,'" Flake "said of his legislative approach going forward. 'I'm not out [to be] vindictive.'" Under the headline "Flake's Speech Bore Marks Of Mormon Faith As Well As Politics," the New York Times (10/25, Goodstein, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) examined how Flake's Tuesday speech criticizing Trump was influenced by the Arizona lawmaker's Mormon faith.

The <u>CBS Evening News</u> (10/25, story 4, 2:05, Mason, 11.17M) reported that with Trump "under attack by both of Arizona's Republican Senators, we talked to Republican voters in the state." CBS' Jim Axelrod spoke with "four...Republican voters" in Arizona, two of whom "sided with their Senators," one of whom "would have liked Flake to hang tough," and one of whom described the controversy as a "lose-lose?"

Media Analyses: Glut Of GOP Retirements In Response To Trump Unlikely. Under the headline "No GOP Dam Break: Senators Rally Behind Trump And His Agenda," the AP (10/25, Werner, Fram) reports, "There was no dam break of Republican rancor against...Trump on Wednesday, a day after": Corker and Flake "denounced their president and invited colleagues to join them. Instead, most GOP lawmakers rallied around Trump and his agenda, with one all but saying 'good riddance' to" the exiting lawmakers. Said Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), "Maybe we do better by having some of the people who just don't like [Trump] leave, and replace them with somebody else. And I think that's what's happening."

<u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Collins, 8.62M) reports that Flake's "dramatic denunciation of...Trump and the antiestablishment wing of the" GOP "is unlikely to start a wave of similar speeches from other Republicans. In fact, very few in the party have seconded Flake's" criticism. USA Today adds, "At least one GOP Senate incumbent who is being targeted by Trump's allies seemed more anxious to publicly defend the president." Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS), "a Republican target of the anti-establishment wing led by former Trump adviser Steve Bannon," told USA Today, "I think most of us in the conference are very comfortable with the direction that this chief executive of our nation and this head of our party wants to take us," adding "that Flake's criticisms of the president have been 'quite provocative."

The New York Times (10/25, Martin, Peters, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, "Despite the fervor of...Trump's" GOP foes, "the president's brand of hard-edge nationalism – with its gut-level cultural appeals and hard lines on trade and immigration – is taking root within his adopted party, and those uneasy with grievance politics are either giving in or giving up the fight. In some cases, the retirement of an anti-Trump Republican could actually improve the" GOP's odds "of retaining a seat." The Times says Flake's announcement that he won't seek another term "was greeted with quiet sighs of relief in a party anguished by his plunging approval ratings. But such short-term advantages mask a larger, even existential threat to traditional Republicans. The Grand Old Party risks a longer-term transformation into the Party of Trump."

On its website, <u>CNN</u> (10/25, Petulla, 33.59M) reported, "Dramatic announcements from [Corker and Flake] that they will retire at the end of their terms makes it seem like the Senate is poised for a mass exodus. But relative to other Senates in history, this Congress is not retiring quickly. If no other senators retire, which is possible, it will be one of only four election cycles since 1914 when only two incumbent senators decided to retire instead of seeking another term."

Under the heading "Republicans Won't Quit Trump," By E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in his <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, 10.38M) column, "Trump's GOP opponents can still hope to demonstrate that the negative impact of how the president operates matters far more than any ideological victories he might deliver to conservatives. Trump daily proves Corker's point that it's foolish to expect he'll ever change. But it will be an uphill struggle. Republicans such as Flake and Corker have reason to worry their party is so profoundly Trumpified that it is lost to them. At some point, they may just have to walk away."



NYTimes: Most Republicans Silent On Trump Because He's Pursuing "Policies They've Always Wanted." In an editorial, the New York Times (10/25, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says, "It's less striking that a few Republican congressmen have publicly denounced...Trump's conduct than that most of their colleagues have not. Their fellow legislators have silently accepted his outrages in exchange for policies they've always wanted," such as "transferring power to Wall Street, fossil fuel companies, the chemical industry and other special interests," while "stoking an anti-populist bonfire to incinerate protections for consumers and workers."

Lee, Paul Weigh In On Colleagues' Criticism Of Trump. Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), discussing Flake's criticism of Trump, said on MSNBC's Morning Joe (10/25, 1.06M), "I understand those concerns, and I get it. It's not my style to engage in personal attacks with people. The fact is the President is there to do a particular job. The President has, in fact, fought to drain the swamp. ... What I'm here to do is to fight for America's working families, America's moms and dads and to make sure they get the tax reform and the regulatory relief they need and deserve."

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (10/25, 2.07M), "I have a different take on this. You know, I try to keep it more about policy. Look, I've been willing to go stand toe-to-toe with the President when I disagree with him on policy, but I also am willing to support the President when I agree on policy like cutting taxes. I think President is one of the boldest people we had in the White House in a long time on cutting taxes and I will support him there. That doesn't mean I will always support him. I don't make it about personality or someone saying someone has less of a perfect character than they do."

Politico Analysis: Despite Attacks From Right, McConnell, GOP Leadership Still "Firmly In Charge." Politico (10/25, Bresnahan, 3.6M) reported, "Despite a near constant barrage of attacks from Sean Hannity, Steve Bannon and the Breitbart wing of the GOP, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other top Senate Republicans remain firmly in charge. There is no threat of a leadership challenge to McConnell or any of the other highest-ranking Republicans, and their support inside the GOP Conference remains rock solid." At the same time, "Senate Republicans are feeling the heat from the unhappy GOP base, especially the strongest pro-Trump elements of the party. In response, many Republicans are tying themselves ever closer to...Trump."

McConnell-Aligned PAC Highlights "Past Charges Of Anti-Semitism" Against Bannon. The Hill (10/25, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported that the Senate Leadership Fund (SLF), a super PAC run by allies of McConnell, on Wednesday stepped up its attacks on Bannon, "highlighting past charges of anti-Semitism that were leveled against the Breitbart News head during a nasty legal battle over his divorce. The latest provocation came in response to a tweet from" businessman Danny Tarkanian (R) "who is mounting a Bannon-aligned insurgent primary" challenge to Sen. Dean Heller (R). After Tarkanian "called on Heller to sign a pledge to oppose McConnell as majority leader," SLF asked in a responding tweet "if he stands by Bannon amid accusations of anti-Semitism leveled by his ex-wife in 2007." The SLF tweet included an image of a New York Daily News story headlined "Anti-Semitic Trump Campaign CEO Stephen Bannon Not A Big Fan Of "Whiny Brat" Jews, Ex-Wife Says."

In an "exclusive," <u>Breitbart</u> (10/25, Boyle, 2.42M) reported that the SLF "tweet contains a make-believe 'pledge' that McConnell's forces created to smear Bannon. It includes a fake news headline from the...Daily News, falsely accusing Bannon of anti-Semitic viewpoints." Responding to the tweet, Tarkanian on Wednesday told Brietbart News "that he stands with Bannon against McConnell and the political class in Washington, Dc." Said Tarkanian, "I am proud to stand with my friend Steve Bannon and reject the McConnell hatchet-man's attempts to smear him. Their efforts failed miserably in Alabama where they wasted \$10 million attacking a conservative who – like me – pledged to oppose Mitch McConnell as majority leader."

The <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, Scherer, Costa, Weigel, 10.38M) reports that ex-McConnell chief of staff Josh Holmes had previously remarked on GOP primary challengers' opposition or reluctance to backing McConnell as majority leader, Holmes is quoted as telling The Hill, "In 2018, we ought to revisit this question and find out if these people are still happy to be associated with Bannon. When you're facing



voters, I'd take one of the most successful majority leaders in history over a white supremacist any day."

Falwell Supports Bannon's Effort To Unseat "Fake Republicans." Breitbart (10/25, Boyle, 2.42M) reported that Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. "is calling for evangelicals everywhere to stand with...Bannon against the 'fake Republicans' in the Washington, DC swamp." Speaking this week with Breitbart News, Falwell "backed Bannon 100 percent and called for the removal of 'Fake Republicans' who 'deceive' the electorate by claiming to support President Trump when they actually do not." Breitbart News added, "When asked specifically about Bannon's season of war," against GOP incumbents deemed insufficiently supportive of Trump, "Falwell [said]: 'I love it."

Milbank Laments Flake's Exit, Criticizes GOP's "Embrace" Of Moore. In his Washington Post (10/25, Milbank, 10.38M) column, Dana Milbank bemoans the decision of Flake, an "honorable man and faithful conservative," to retire, and criticizes the GOP's "embrace of...Ten Commandments judge Roy Moore, who after his GOP primary win is very likely to be the next senator from Alabama." Milbank adds, "This is no longer the GOP of Flake, who carried the flame for Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. It's not even Donald Trump's; he was just using it. The GOP is now the party of Roy Moore." Milbank goes on to highlight "what's 'out' in the GOP – the sentiments voiced by Flake in his moving speech Tuesday – and what's 'in' – some of the memorable words of Moore."

Coons: Flake's Retirement "Should Scare All Americans." In a New York Times (10/25, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) op-ed, Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) says that Flake's "retirement is deeply troubling to me because he represents a principled and patriotic Republican Party, one that has long championed strong American leadership around the world, and one I now fear is falling apart. That should scare all Americans." Coons adds, "In a closely divided Senate, three of my Republican colleagues [Corker, Flake, and Sen. John McCain] have made risky, unpopular decisions to speak out about the precarious state of their party and the country. We should heed their warnings, challenge them to turn their words into action and ask how we can do the same."

Appearing on CNN's Situation Room (10/25, 1.13M), Coons discussed his op-ed in the New York Times, saying, "We have always made the advancement of democracy, human rights, and freedom a key part of our bipartisan foreign policy over the last 70 years. And so for us to be in an environment where that's actively being questioned, where President Trump and leaders in his Administration have at times challenged or questioned or pushed back on our vital alliances and on the centrality of these values to our leadership in the world, and to now see critical voices" in the GOP departing Congress "in the next couple years, that's very concerning to me."

Media Analyses: Flake's 2018 Decision Improves GOP Odds Of Retaining His Seat. Politico (10/25, Robillard, 3.6M) reported, "Establishment Republicans are sad to see...Flake go." However, his decision not to seek reelection "came with a silver lining: They believe it gives the GOP a better chance of holding Arizona's seat – and the Senate majority – next November. Flake's drumbeat of criticism against...Trump had tanked his popularity among Republicans," polls "showed, and it had become a near certainty that Flake would lose his primary to" ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R-AZ), who "is seen by top Republican strategists as an unelectable nominee." Politico added that "the ability to swap in a different Republican for Flake – one who has not repeatedly set fire to bridges with the Republican Party's Trump-loving base – could give the GOP a better shot against Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema next fall, multiple Republicans said."

Similarly, <u>CNN</u> (10/25, Bradner, 33.59M) reported that Flake's decision "could actually boost his party's chances of holding onto his seat" in next year's election. Flake "was almost certain to lose in a Republican primary to...Ward," who "is seen by many GOP strategists as a poor candidate in a general election matchup with...Sinema. With Flake out of the way, Republicans are now free to recruit a potentially stronger candidate into that primary."

Along those same lines, Reuters (10/25, Schwartz, Ax) reports that Flake's "surprise decision" not to seek reelection "could be bad news both for" both Ward and Sinema, who, "in their own ways, each been counting on Flake's unpopularity in their quest to win the November 2018 election. 'It was a bad day for



Kelli Ward and a bad day for Kyrsten Sinema,' said Stan Barnes, a veteran Republican political consultant in Arizona."

The Hill (10/25, Hagen, 1.68M) reported that Flake's "shock decision not to run for reelection" gives "Republicans new hope that they can hold onto the critical Senate seat in 2018." The Hill added that "the now wide-open race could attract potential Republican candidates who see a new opportunity with the incumbent out of the race, with GOP establishment groups eventually coalescing around a candidate they think will fare better in the general election than Ward."

In an editorial, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) also says that Flake's decision improves the GOP's odds of retaining his seat in 2018. The Journal adds that Flake was correct in charging that a great deal of Trump's rhetoric lacks dignity and is untrue.

GOP Rep. Gosar Won't Seek To Succeed Flake. The Hill (10/25, Manchester, 1.68M) reported that Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) on Wednesday said that he won't seek to succeed Flake. In a statement, Gosar spokesman Faith Vander Voort said, "Although the state needs a strong conservative at the helm, Congressman Gosar will seek reelection for his seat in the House of Representatives in 2018."

POLITICO ANALYSIS: TRUMP CITES HIS IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION AS PROOF OF HIS CIVILITY.

Politico (10/25, McCaskill, 3.6M) reports that President Trump on Wednesday cited his Ivy League education "as proof that the media is reporting a false image of the 71-year-old president." Trump told reporters, "I think the press makes me more uncivil than I am. .. You know, people don't understand. I went to an Ivy League college. ... I was a nice student. I did very well. I'm a very intelligent person. You know, the fact is, I think, I really believe, I think the press creates a different image of Donald Trump than the real person." Politico adds that while he "did not elaborate on the apparent correlation between education and civility," Trump "did accuse the media of reporting 'fake stories' and 'a lot of bad things' he said are untrue."

TRUMP PRAISES YELLEN AS SOURCES SAY COHN WON'T BE NAMED FED CHAIRMAN.

President Trump said on Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight (10/25, 352K) that he has his list of possible nominees for Federal Reserve Chair "down to two or maybe three people. I think over the next very short period of time I'll be announcing it. It won't be a big shock." When Dobbs said, "Janet Yellen might be worth keeping," Trump replied, "She was in my office three days ago. She is very impressive. I like her a lot. I would certainly think about it. In one way, I have to say you would like to make your own mark, which is maybe one of the things she has a little bit against her. But I think she is terrific. We had a great talk. And we are obviously doing very well together, you look at the markets."

Bloomberg News (10/25, Condon, 4.52M) reports, meanwhile, that "three people familiar with the matter said he is no longer considering National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn for the job," while "it's unclear whether Kevin Warsh, a former Fed governor, has also been ruled out." Another Bloomberg News (10/25, Cirilli, Jacobs, Talev, 4.52M) story quotes a "senior administration official familiar with the president's thinking" as saying, "No decision has been made and no candidate has been ruled out but Gary's role is too crucial to getting tax reform done." Reuters (10/25) also quotes a "senior administration official" who said of Cohn, "It might be too important for him to continue to be the lead, for him to announce a change at this time."

The AP (10/25, Crutsinger) notes that also reported to be under consideration are "Jerome Powell, a member of the Fed's board; Kevin Warsh," and "John Taylor, a Stanford University economist."

In the Fox interview, <u>Politico</u> (10/25, Lima, 3.6M) reports, Trump "solicited advice from...anchor Lou Dobbs...on whom he should pick," agreeing "with Dobbs' assessment that incumbent chair Janet Yellen 'might be worth keeping' on in the role." Alan S. Blinder, formerly vice chairman of the Federal Reserve, makes the case for Yellen's renomination in an op-ed for the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/25, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 6.45M).

BLOOMBERG ANALYSIS: ADMINISTRATION NOT WORRIED ABOUT APPEARING TO HELP



BANKING INDUSTRY. Bloomberg News (10/25, Dexheimer, 4.52M) reports in an analysis that Vice President Pence's tie-breaking vote in the Senate "to all but kill a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule that would have made it much easier for people to sue lenders over financial disputes," sent "a clear signal" that the Administration "isn't worried about looking like it's doing the industry's bidding, even after campaigning last year on a populist, anti-Wall Street message." A Wall Street Journal (10/25, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorial calls Tuesday's Senate vote to overturn the rule a victory for the economy and the leadership of Senate Majority Leader McConnell.

USA Today Analysis: Pence Could Set Record For Tie Breaking Senate Votes. A <u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Groppe, 8.62M) analysis says Pence is on pace to "set a modern record" for vice presidents casting tie breaking Senate votes. Pence "has already broken more ties in the Senate than seven of his last nine predecessors." He needs "only a few more opportunities until catching up to the seven deciding votes cast by George H.W. Bush, or the eight cast by Dick Cheney."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: TRUMP TEAM SEEKS TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH BY REMOVING REGULATIONS. The Wall Street Journal (10/25, Ip, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports the Trump Administration is trying to spur economic growth by removing regulations that stop innovation.

NEW HOME SALES AT HIGHEST POINT IN A DECADE. The AP (10/25, Rugaber) reports, "Sales of new US homes jumped last month to the highest level since October 2007, a sign that Americans – unable to find existing homes – are turning to new construction." The AP adds "new home sales leapt 18.9% in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 667,000, the most in a decade, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Sales rose in all regions including the South, where they increased nearly 26%."

TRUMP TWEETS HE WILL RELEASE LAST JFK FILES THURSDAY. CNN (10/25, Diamond, 33.59M) reports that the President "said Wednesday that his administration will release classified government documents about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Thursday, the deadline Congress set for making the files public." The President tweeted, "The long anticipated release of the #JFKFiles will take place tomorrow. So interesting!"

The media continued to run stories anticipating the expected release of the last of the files on Thursday, often focusing on their impact on various extant conspiracy theories. For example, the Dallas Morning News (10/25, Tarrant, 984K) reports that DMN reporter Hugh Aynesworth, who witnessed the assassination, doesn't expect the conspiracy theories to end with the new releases. Still, Aynesworth said that he "expects the files to produce more information about how much the CIA and FBI knew about Oswald before the assassination."

Another piece in the <u>Dallas Morning News</u> (10/25, Gillman, 984K) interviews Hank Graff, a retired historian who was a member of the Assassination Records Review Board, created by Congress in 1992 to determine which documents to keep secret for another 25 years. Graff said, "We weren't the Warren Commission but we read so many of these documents, and you must know that Lee Harvey Oswald is the sole assassin."

The New York Times (10/25, Moore, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) runs a piece heavily focused on the history of the assassination and the various theories that have arisen. CBS News (10/25, 4.42M) also reports on the subject. The Washington Post (10/25, Rosenwald, 10.38M) runs a piece on Oswald's last days.

Little of the coverage actually dealt with the debate about releasing the files, or the concerns of the intelligence community. An exception is a piece from the Associated Press. The AP (10/25, Riechmann, Kellman) reports that President Trump is "caught in a push-pull on new details of John F. Kennedy's assassination, jammed between students of the killing who want every scrap of information and intelligence agencies that are said to be counseling restraint." The AP says that intelligence agencies are urging him to "keep some files out of public sight on national security grounds."



TRUMP ASKED SENATORS ABOUT CHANGING DENALI'S NAME BACK TO MT. MCKINLEY. The New York Post (10/25, Fredericks, 4.31M) reports that according to a story in Tuesday's Alaska Dispatch News, President Trump "was so determined to reverse his predecessor's legacy that he asked Alaska's two senators," Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, "if he should change the name of the US' largest mountain back to Mt. McKinley from the Native American name it had been called for 10,000 years." The Obama Administration "had changed the name to Denali – its name in the indigenous Athabascan language – in recognition of Native Americans' heritage as the original residents of North America." Sullivan said he and Murkowski "jumped over the desk, we said, 'No! No! Don't want to reverse that."

DOJ AGREES TO SETTLE LAWSUITS OVER IRS SCRUTINY OF TEA PARTY GROUPS. The Washington Post (10/25, Zapotosky, 10.38M) reports that the Justice Department "has reached settlement agreements with groups that alleged in federal lawsuits that their constitutional rights were violated when their applications for tax-exempt status received extra scrutiny because their names contained words such as 'tea party' or 'patriots,' court filings show." According to the Post, "in one agreement, which still must be approved by a judge, the Internal Revenue Service admitted that its treatment of the organizations was 'wrong' and expressed a 'sincere apology' for what happened." The plaintiffs and the Justice Department "agreed they would dismiss the case with a judge's declaration that it was illegal to unevenly apply tax laws based on an organization's name or particular political viewpoint."

IRS Agent's Email Says Conservative Groups Were Targeted Due To "Political Party Affiliation." The Washington Times (10/25, Dinan, 541K) reports that lawyers believe "an email from an IRS agent to her supervisors alerting them that the agency was, in fact, singling out some groups' applications for extreme scrutiny 'primarily because of their political party affiliation," is "the smoking gun in the IRS's tea party targeting scandal." The email, which was "released last month as part of a massive document dump in a class-action lawsuit filed in Ohio by hundreds of conservative groups who were targeted for extra review and intrusive questioning," is counter to "the IRS's official stance over the years contending that conservative groups were wrongly scrutinized, but it was a result of their behavior, not their politics."

DOJ ASKS TO ARGUE FOR CHRISTIAN BAKER IN SAME-SEX WEDDING CAKE CASE BEFORE HIGH COURT. The Washington Times (10/25, Swoyer, 541K) reports that Justice Department attorneys asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday "for permission to argue on behalf of a Christian baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex wedding ceremony, in a case that promises to test the limits of gay rights and First Amendment freedoms." The Trump Administration "is backing the baker, Jack Phillips, who has argued his free speech right to express himself through his cakes was infringed when Colorado's civil rights commission ordered him to bake cakes for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation. 'As a general matter, the United States has a substantial interest in the preservation of federal constitutional rights of free expression,' wrote Noel Francisco, the government's solicitor general, in his motion asking for time to argue the case" on December 5. The Times notes that "lower courts ruled Mr. Phillips violated Colorado's anti-discrimination law by refusing to create the wedding cake."

PRIVATE PRISON COMPANY HAS SOUGHT TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

The Washington Post (10/25, Brittain, Harwell, 10.38M) reports that the private prison company GEO Group last week held its annual leadership conference at Trump National Doral, "a Miami-area golf resort owned by President Trump." The event "followed an intense effort by GEO Group to align itself with the president and his administration." A subsidiary of GEO "gave \$225,000 to a pro-Trump super PAC," and GEO "gave an additional \$250,000 to the president's inaugural committee." In addition, it "hired as outside lobbyists a major Trump fundraiser and two former aides to Attorney General Jeff Sessions." The Post adds that GEO "has had newfound success in Trump's Washington," securing "the administration's first contract for an immigration-detention center, a deal worth tens of millions a year."

FCC TO SCALE BACK LIMITS ON MEDIA OWNERSHIP. The Wall Street Journal (10/25, McKinnon, Hagey, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that FCC Chairman Ajit Pai told a congressional hearing Wednesday that he will eliminate or reduce limits on local ownership of TV stations and newspapers. A vote on the action is expected at the FCC's Nov. 16 meeting, and officials said the new rules would take effect soon after.



SINCE 2000, NON-CITIZEN IMMIGRANTS MAY HAVE CAST 544 ILLEGAL BALLOTS IN

PENNSYLVANIA. The AP (10/25, Levy) reports, "Noncitizen immigrants may have cast 544 ballots illegally out of more than 93 million ballots in elections spanning 18 years in Pennsylvania, state election officials said Wednesday. A Department of State official, Jonathan Marks, told the House State Government Committee that the agency's analysis covered 35 primary and general elections from 2000 through 2017." The AP adds, "The illegal ballots were apparently cast by noncitizen immigrants who later reported themselves as having mistakenly registered, the department said. The figure could drop as the department continues to analyze information it gets from counties, a spokeswoman said later."

The Hill (10/25, Bowden, 1.68M) reported, "About 6.1 million people voted in Pennsylvania during the 2016 presidential election. President Trump won the state with 48.6 percent of the vote, topping former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton by less than 100,000 votes. A month after taking office, Trump established a White House commission to investigate his unproven claim that millions of undocumented immigrants voted for Clinton during the election." The Daily Caller (10/25, Racke, 521K) also reported on the story.

POLL: GILLESPIE LEADS NORTHAM 41%-33%; 27% UNDECIDED. The Hill (10/25, Delk, 1.68M) reported that a Hampton University poll of 750 Virginia likely voters, taken Oct. 18–22, shows ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie leading Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam (D) 41%-33% in the Nov. 7 election to succeed term-limited Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D); 27% were undecided. The Hill said that Northam "has led in a majority of other recent polls, holding a 5.8-point lead in the RealClearPolitics polling index." The Washington Examiner (10/25, Correll, 465K) reported, "This is only the second poll in recent months in which Gillespie leads Northam. A Monmouth University poll of registered voters showed Gillespie with a slim 1-percent lead (48-47 percent) over Northam."

WPost Downplays Findings In Poll. Meanwhile, in an "analysis" for the Washington Post (10/25, Bump, 10.38M), Philip Bump plays don the findings in the poll, saying "there's a critical caveat. Instead of asking respondents who didn't indicate a choice between Northam and Gillespie who they preferred, those respondents were simply listed as 'don't know.' The result is 'don't know' ended up getting more than a quarter of the vote," which "means a quarter of the possible electorate which will weigh in on the race – and would probably weigh in on behalf of the candidate who they'd tell the pollsters they were leaning toward – isn't counted. ... So we have instead this weird three-way race."

WPost Profile: Trump, GOP "Civil War" Complicates Gillespie's Bid. Under the headline "Can A Career Tactician Navigate Trump And A GOP Civil War And Win Virginia?", the Washington Post (10/25, Schwartzman, 10.38M) profiles Gillespie, saying the veteran GOP operative "is at the center of a civil war that is dividing his party, one pitting the Republican establishment he personifies with his four-star credentials against the anti-Washington forces that propelled President Trump's rise. Trump lost Virginia to Hillary Clinton, and his approval rating in the state is below 40 percent. But the president's populist appeal remains muscular enough that Gillespie has had to become a political contortionist, seeking to appeal to Trump's base without pushing moderates toward his" rival.

In his <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, Will, 10.38M) column, George Will says, "In 2014, Gillespie" narrowly lost to Sen. Mark Warner (D). "This year, however, Gillespie barely defeated a full-throated Trumpian in the Republican primary. Gillespie is intelligent, temperate, experienced and happiest when talking about government policies. These attributes are, in the incandescent eyes of his party's now-Trumpian base, defects of swamp creatures. So, he is gingerly tiptoeing across the treacherous terrain of Trumpian Republican politics."

Planned Parenthood Far Outspending Pro-life Groups In Virginia Races. The Washington Times (10/25, Richardson, 541K) reports, "Pro-life groups are trying to counter the millions of dollars that Planned Parenthood is pouring into Virginia's political races." However, "few pro-life groups are able to match the level of spending that Planned Parenthood." Moreover, "it's difficult to get out the pro-life message while being censored by powerful social media platforms," which is "what happened when the Susan B. Anthony List tried to promote a video advertisement on Twitter that equated partial-birth abortion to 'killing babies.' Twitter told the pro-life group that advertisers are not allowed to use that



phrase." The Times says that Planned Parenthood has swamped pro-life groups in spending on the various races in Virginia.

CORNYN ENDORSES MOORE IN ALABAMA SENATE RACE. The Washington Examiner (10/25, Weaver, 465K) reported that Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX), "the No. 2-ranking Senate Republican," on Wednesday endorsed ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore (R-AL) in the Dec. 12 special election for the former seat of now-US Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The move "is an about-face for" Cornyn, "who had been a top supporter of" appointed Sen. Luther Strange (R), who was defeated by Moore in the special GOP primary. Cornyn is "the fourth GOP senator to back Moore since last Monday." Moore is battling ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D-AL) in the general election.

Jonah Goldberg Rips Moore As "An Anti-Muslim Bigot." The Hill (10/25, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reported that conservative columnist Jonah Goldberg blasted Moore "as 'an anti-Muslim bigot," in a Tuesday piece published by the New York Post. Goldberg, "a senior editor of National Review," is quoted as writing of Moore in the op-ed, "He's a twice-disgraced former judge who believes 9/11 was divine retribution for our sins and an anti-Muslim bigot who can't quite bring himself to rule out the death penalty for homosexuals."

POLL: 68% SAY TRUMP WAS WRONG TO CALL FOR FIRING OF NFL PLAYERS OVER ANTHEM PROTESTS. Politico (10/25, Nelson, 3.6M) reported that in an HBO Real Sports/Marist poll of 1,093 US "adults," taken Oct. 15-17, 68% of those surveyed "said President Donald Trump was wrong to call for the firing of NFL players who refuse to stand for the national anthem," while 28% "said Trump's response was the correct one." Politico added, "Despite Trump's assertions that standing for the national anthem should be mandatory," 51% of those surveyed "said professional sports leagues should not mandate that their players do so," with 47% saying "they should."

Writing in the "Monkey Cage" blog on the website of the <u>Washington Post</u> (10/25, Sides, 10.38M) a, John Sides asked whether "Trump's objections to these protests [have] pulled Americans to his side? No. In fact," the "poll suggests it's exactly the opposite." Sides added that in the poll, 51% "said that standing should not be required. In a September 2016 poll by HBO and Marist, only 43 percent said this."

HAWLEY BACKS GOP TAX CUTS, SLAMS MCCASKILL. The AP (10/25, Ballentine) reports that state Attorney General Josh Hawley (R-MO), who is mounting a 2018 challenge to Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), on Wednesday "said he supports the broad outlines of a Republican plan to overhaul the federal tax code" and "harshly criticized" the incumbent Democrat "as an obstructionist to tax cuts." Speaking with reporters, Hawley said "that he supports doubling the standard deduction used by most Americans and expanding child tax credits. He slammed McCaskill as being 'in the permanent posture of 'no" on a tax overhaul he said is badly needed." The AP adds that McCaskill "is among 10 Senate Democrats up for reelection in 2018 in states won by [President] Trump and is considered one of the most vulnerable incumbents."

The <u>Springfield (MO) News-Leader</u> (10/25, Sheesgreen, 61K) quotes Hawley as saying that "McCaskill has now come out and said she opposes the very idea of tax cuts before she's even seen the legislation. Why is she refusing to work with President Trump without even listening? ... It's just no, no, no." However, the News-Leader says Hawley's remarks "directly conflict with McCaskill's public statements and actions on the issue. She has said she's interested in pursuing tax reform that helps the middle class, but she will not support a bill that doles out big rewards for the wealthy."

McCaskill Camp Spent Nearly \$21K On Private Air Travel In Q3. Meanwhile, the Washington Free Beacon (10/25, Scher, 158K) reported that the McCaskill campaign "spent nearly \$21,000 on private air travel in" the third quarter of 2017. McCaskill's "filing to the Federal Election Committee discloses 11 payments totaling \$20,911 made to Aero Charter, a Missouri-based company that both charters planes and offers an aircraft management service for those who own private planes." The Democrat "covered nearly all the costs for the private air travel through \$17,620 worth of in-kind contributions to her campaign that were specified for travel, leaving just under \$3,300 that was covered by the campaign."

POTENTIAL BANNON TARGET WICKER SAYS HE'LL SEEK REELECTION NEXT YEAR. Roll Call



(10/25, Williams, 134K) reported that Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) on Wednesday "said he is not contemplating retirement and plans to run for re-election in 2018." Wicker "is said to be a top target of former White House adviser Steve Bannon" in next year's midterms. While a pair "of Wicker's GOP colleagues facing possibly tough primaries next year" – Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) – have opted to retire, the Mississippi Republican "seems to be making moves to show he's aware of the political environment. On Monday, Wicker joined the chorus within the GOP caucus saying the Senate should log longer hours to confirm nominees" – a move that could have been made with "an eye" on state Sen. Chris McDaniel (R), who is mulling a primary challenge to the GOP incumbent.

BIDEN YET TO DECIDE ON 2020 WHITE HOUSE RUN. <u>USA Today</u> (10/25, Estepa, 8.62M) reported that while former vice president Joe Biden "hasn't announced" a 2020 White House bid, "he hasn't announced he won't run, either. 'I haven't decided to run, but I've decided I'm not going to decide not run,' Biden told Vanity Fair in a December issue story that published Wednesday. 'We'll see what happens.'"

Biden Says He Never Sensed "Any Joy" In Clinton's Campaign. The Washington Times (10/25, Chasmar, 541K) reports that Biden "said he never got a sense of 'joy' in Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, telling Vanity Fair in a new interview that the failed Democratic nominee appeared to be more driven by outside forces than her own ambition." Biden is quoted as saying of Clinton, "Everyone thinks it was just raw ambition on her part. I think she was sort of a prisoner of history. First woman who had a better-than-even chance of getting the nomination. ... And so I never got the sense that there was any joy in her campaign. Maybe it's me, but I find joy in doing this."

SOME SEE PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS IN GREITENS' IOWA VISIT. McClatchy (10/25, Hancock, Wise, 67K) reports that Gov. Eric Greitens (R-MO) on Saturday appeared "right at home as he wandered the crowd of Republican activists and elected officials gathered at the Iowa State Fairgrounds," shaking "nearly every hand in the room and [introducing] himself to anyone in his path." Greitens wrapped up "the night with a speech touting his record as governor and urging the crowd to work hard to help re-elect Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds. Greitens also did something else on Saturday – he re-ignited the long-held view among many Missouri politicos that the first-term governor sees Jefferson City as a pit stop on a path to the White House."

POLL: DEMOCRAT MURPHY LEADS GUADAGNO 57%-37% IN NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S RACE. The North Jersey (NJ) Media Group (10/25, Racioppi, 140K) reports that a Quinnipiac University poll of 1,049 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 19-24, shows ex-Goldman Sachs executive Phil Murphy (D) leading Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R-NJ) 57%-37% in the Nov. 7 election to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ). The report says that Murphy held a 25-point lead in a similar poll taken last month.

MENENDEZ AIDE: GIFTS FROM MELGEN WEREN'T DISCLOSED BECAUSE THEY CAME FROM A FRIEND. The AP (10/25, Porter) reports that on Wednesday at the federal corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and his longtime friend and donor, eye doctor Salomon Melgen, "[m]uch of the day's testimony revolved around what Menendez did and didn't report on Senate ethics forms over several years." The AP says that "defense witness Robert Kelly testified on cross-examination that he wasn't familiar with all of the rules regarding disclosures but that he believed Menendez didn't have to report gifts from close personal friends." However, prosecutor Monique Abrishami "noted that even a section that mentions personal gifts requires that they be reported if they exceed a certain monetary value. 'So there actually is no friendship exception, is there?' she asked."

The New York Times (10/25, Schweber, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Kelly, "who has worked for Mr. Menendez since 2006 and is now his deputy chief of staff for operations," said in testimony "that the senator never told him about private flights he had accepted from" Melgen, "nor did Mr. Menendez opt to list them himself on financial disclosure forms." Kelly testified "that he did not think the senator needed to disclose the flights, or nights in a luxury hotel room in Paris because the accommodations came courtesy of his friend...Melgen."

<u>Politico</u> (10/25, Friedman, 3.6M) reported that the prosecution "zeroed in on a statement from the senator's office in January 2013 that said Menendez had flown on Melgen's plane 'on three occasions'



and that the trips had been appropriately paid for. (The trips were actually paid for after Melgen and Menendez' relationship was drawing scrutiny.) The number of trips turned out not to be true.," as Menendez "had flown on Melgen's jets many more times – six times or more, depending on whether every leg of every trip is counted."

Poll: 59% Of New Jersey Likely Voters Say Menendez Shouldn't Be Reelected. The Hill (10/25, Shelbourne, 1.68M) reported that in a Quinnipiac University poll of 1,049 New Jersey likely voters, taken Oct. 19-24, 59% of those surveyed "said Menendez does not deserve to be re-elected" in 2018, with 19% saying "he does...deserve to be re-elected to his seat."

MITT ROMNEY BACKS AHLQUIST IN IDAHO GOP GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY. The AP (10/25, Kruesi) reports that Mitt Romney on Wednesday endorsed businessman Tommy Ahlquist's (R) 2018 bid to succeed retiring Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-ID). In a statement, Romney said "that he's backing Ahlquist because the political newcomer's experience as a doctor and businessman has made him uniquely qualified for the top position. Romney is considered a high-profile endorsement in Idaho – particularly in the eastern half of the state – because of his goodwill earned across the Rocky Mountain region from his role running the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and his prominence as a Mormon." Ahlquist is battling Lt. Gov. Brad Little (R) and Rep. Raul Labrador (R) in the GOP primary.

TOP GOP DONORS FORM GROUP AIMED AT COUNTERING EMILY'S LIST. Politico (10/25, Johnson, 3.6M) reported, "A broad network of conservative operatives and Republican donors has been working the past year to build a conservative counterweight to EMILY's List, the powerhouse organization that backs Democratic female candidates who support abortion rights. The new effort, dubbed Winning for Women, quietly began soliciting members and funneling support to candidates about six weeks ago" and "now includes nearly 30,000 people who have provided their names and email addresses online, though it doesn't yet have a website and hasn't officially launched." The group "is being supported by some of the Republican Party's biggest donors, including Linda McMahon, Betsy DeVos, Robert and Rebekah Mercer, TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts and his son, Todd, and the hedge fund billionaire Paul Singer."

GALLUP POLL: 64% OF AMERICANS, 51% OF REPUBLICANS BACK POT LEGALIZATION. The Washington Times (10/25, Blake, 541K) reports, "Sixty-four percent of Americans including 51 percent of Republicans favor legalizing marijuana, according to the results of a Gallup poll released Wednesday – the highest level of public support from either demographic ever recorded." CNN (10/25, Maake, 33.59M) notes that the GOP figure is "up nine points from a Gallup poll conducted last year." It is, says Politico (10/25, Nelson, 3.6M), "the first time that a majority of Republicans have expressed support for marijuana legalization in Gallup polling."

TUCKER CARLSON QUESTIONS WHY VEGAS SHOOTING WITNESS TRAVELED TO MEXICO AFTER SHOOTING. Tucker Carlson reported that a confidential source has provided Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight (10/25, 3.63M) with a document showing that Jesus Campos, the "only eyewitness" to the Las Vegas mass shooting, entered the US from Mexico "exactly to the hour one week after" the shooting. Carlson said this "raises a number of questions," because "at the time he was in Mexico, the press was reporting that investigators thought Stephen Paddock may have had an accomplice. Why did authorities allow Campos to leave the country just days after the shooting? ... How did Campos, who had a gunshot wound to the leg, manage to travel to Mexico?" In addition, Carlson said that while reports have described Campos as a security guard, "it turns out he's not registered with the state of Nevada."

MURPHY BILL WOULD EXPAND BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR FIREARM PURCHASES. USA Today (10/25, Gaudiano, 8.62M) reports that Sen. Chris Murphy is introducing legislation "to expand background checks for firearm purchases, calling it 'a best case scenario for the anti-gun violence movement." Murphy's bill "would expand the federal background check requirement to include the sale or transfer of all firearms by private sellers, with exceptions for loans of firearms for hunting or gifts to relatives." The legislation, which is "broader than a measure the Senate defeated in 2013," has "has no hope of passing now," but Murphy "said it can be used as a platform for negotiations with Republicans."



NAACP ISSUES TRAVEL WARNING TO AFRICAN-AMERICANS ABOUT AMERICAN AIRLINES. WCNC-TV Charlotte, NC (10/25, Brown, 128K) reported on its website, "The NAACP issued a travel warning Tuesday for African American travelers to exercise caution when flying on American Airlines," saying it has noticed "a pattern of 'disturbing incidents' involving the removal of black passengers from flights, in addition to other troublesome conduct."

JAMES MURDOCH ON SIZE OF O'REILLY SETTLEMENT: IT "WAS NEWS TO ME." The New York Times (10/25, Steel, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports, "James Murdoch, the chief executive of 21st Century Fox, on Wednesday defended how the company responded to sexual harassment allegations against the former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly, stating that he did not know the size of Mr. O'Reilly's \$32 million settlement until recently." Said Murdoch, "The settlement wasn't a company settlement, and that was news to me when we saw the number the other day."

BUSH 41 APOLOGIZES TO WOMAN WHO ACCUSED HIM OF INAPPROPRIATELY TOUCHING HER. USA Today (10/25, Jackson, 8.62M) reports that former President George H.W. Bush has apologized to actor Heather Lind "who accused him of improperly touching her and telling a dirty joke during a photo opportunity four years ago." A statement from Bush spokesman Jim McGrath said, "At age 93, President Bush has been confined to a wheelchair for roughly five years, so his arm falls on the lower waist of people with whom he takes pictures. To try to put people at ease, the president routinely tells the same joke – and on occasion, he has patted women's rears in what he intended to be a good-natured manner. Some have seen it as innocent; others clearly view it as inappropriate. To anyone he has offended, President Bush apologizes most sincerely."

PELOSI TWEET MISLABELS BUSH PRESIDENCIES. The New York Post (10/25, Perez, 4.31M) report that in a tweet Wednesday evening, House Minority Leader Pelosi "blast[ed] 'trickle-down economics' and the presidents that supported it – incorrectly labeling George H.W Bush '43' and George W. Bush '44' in the process." Pelosi tweeted, "Reagan. Bush 43. Bush 44. They all tried 'Trickle-Down Economics.' And not once did it help working families." Pelosi "later deleted the tweet and fired off another one, with the correct numbers."

AUTHOR LIKENS CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE TO ACID RAIN SCARE OF 1970S-80S. In an op-ed for the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (10/25, Darwall, Subscription Publication, 6.45M), Rupert Darwall, author of "Green Tyranny: Exposing the Totalitarian Roots of the Climate Industrial Complex," likens the current debate over climate change to the acid-ran scare of the 1970s and 80s, citing the acid-rain alarm, which was proved to be based on faulty science as evidence that the scientific consensus is not a guarantee that the consensus is correct.

MANJOO: WASHINGTON UNLIKELY TO TAKE "DRASTIC ACTION" AGAINST BIG TECH. Farhad Manjoo writes in his "State of the Art" column for the New York Times (10/25, Manjoo, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that while there are "growing efforts in Washington to do something about big tech," including Apple, Google, Microsoft, Facebook and Amazon, which "control the technological platforms that will dominate life for the foreseeable future," there is "little to suggest we'll see drastic action anytime soon." According to the Times "policy intellectuals" say there is "far from universal recognition that the tech giants' vast powers might be harmful." Moreover, there seems to be little political will as "the tech companies remain exceedingly popular, and they are using their vast fortunes to acquire political and cultural clout."

RCP AVERAGE HAS TRUMP'S JOB APPROVAL AT 39%. The <u>RealClearPolitics</u> average of recent polling on President Trump's job approval stands at 39%, and his disapproval at 56.1%. The President's approval is down 0.5 since yesterday; his disapproval is up by 0.7.

The latest <u>Rasmussen</u> survey of 1,500 "likely voters" (10/22-10/24) finds Trump's approval at 42%, with 56% disapproving of his performance. A <u>Gallup</u> daily tracking poll of 1,500 "adults" (10/22-10/24) shows Trump with a 36% approval rating and 59% disapproval.

A Fox News poll of 1,005 "registered voters" (10/22-10/24) finds Trump's approval at 38%, with 57%



disapproving.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll of 2,352 "adults" (10/20-10/24) shows Trump's approval at 35%, and his disapproval at 60%.

The latest <u>Economist/YouGov</u> survey of 1,312 "registered voters" (10/22-10/24), meanwhile, has the President's job approval at 41%, and his disapproval at 56%

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 From:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

 Sent:
 7 Sep 2017 12:39:24 +0000

 To:
 Moos, Bob (CMS/CQISCO)

Subject: CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR THURSDAY, SEPT.

7, 2017

CMS REGION 6 STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 7, 2017

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

PRICE DISCUSSES HHS' HARVEY RELIEF, RECOVERY EFFORTS DURING INTERVIEWS. Dr. Marc Siegel writes in a Fox News (9/6, 12.87M) op-ed that when President Trump said Hurricane Harvey was a natural disaster and HHS Secretary Tom Price subsequently declared a public health emergency, "they initiated a coordinated federal, state and local health care response that has likely saved thousands of lives." Siegel says during an interview last week, Price "emphasized that responders are facing everything from a shortage of potable water to floodwater contamination with chemicals and bacteria, from mosquitoborne illnesses like West Nile virus and Zika to black mold, which can worsen asthma, emphysema and allergies." Price explained that HHS' "operations center is open 24/7, 365 days a year, and it is currently tracking hospital, shelter and dialysis centers to determine which remain open and which are closed." Price added, "The challenge in this storm is, because of the incredible flooding that has occurred, is getting the resources to the individual, so the pharmaceutical supplies are available." Siegel also states that Dr. Robert Kadlec, assistant HHS secretary for preparedness and response, "was confirmed just in time for the storm, and he has played a crucial role in moving the lifesaving chess pieces around."

TIME (9/6, Dias, 5.85M) reports now that the floodwaters are receding "in Houston, the focus has turned from emergency response to cleanup and recovery." Last week, Price visited Texas with President Trump. Price intends "to go again in the coming weeks. He's also looking ahead to the federal response to Hurricane Irma, which is headed toward Puerto Rico and Southern Florida." The article also discusses the Secretary's Operations Center or SOC, which "serves as the HHS hurricane nerve center, where Price is briefed twice a day on the emergency and recovery efforts." Price described the work that HHS is doing, saying, "Obviously the first phase is the redeployment to get ready for the storm, and then it's the rescue and life-saving activities, and then it is the recovery activities, and part of the recovery activity, especially with a storm of this degree, is what to do with the standing water that remains, and then what to do with everything that was affected by the flooding which is a massive area."

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE IMPLORES INSURERS TO RELAX RESTRICTIONS ON COVERAGE FOR HARVEY VICTIMS. The Houston Chronicle (9/6, Deam, 1.97M) reports the Texas Department of Insurance is imploring health insurers to relax restrictions on coverage for beneficiaries impacted by Hurricane Harvey who have already sought or may be in need of treatment. The department has recommended insurers "cover out-of-network care...by waiving penalties and restrictions and not denying payments based on whether a doctor or counselor is in network," and is requesting insurers "access care 'without jumping through the standard hoops." According to department spokesman Ben Gonzalez, "We're not expecting anyone to do anything wrong. ... We're expecting them to do the right thing."

HEALTH OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING APPEARANCE OF MERCURY ON TEXAS COAST IN HARVEY AFTERMATH. The New York Times (9/6, Healy, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that east of Houston, Texas, public health officials are investigating the source of liquid mercury found washed or blown ashore in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Officials are concerned especially by "flooding at highly contaminated Superfund sites, designated by the federal government for clean up."



Some health experts speculate the poison could have emanated from the San Jacinto Waste Pits, one such "Superfund site that was inundated during last week's storm." According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the neurotoxin is highly dangerous, "with a few drops generating enough fumes to contaminate the air in a room."

HOSPITAL EVACUATION DURING HARVEY REQUIRED EXTENSIVE COORDINATION. The New York Times (9/6, Fink, Burton, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that 243 patients were evacuated from Baptist Beaumont hospital last Thursday and Friday as a result of Hurricane Harvey. The article details the "vast logistical effort" of conducting the evacuation, which involved matching patients to available hospitals and coordinating transportation via "ambulances and emergency service crews contributed by fire departments around the state."

KAISER PERMANENTE, OHIOHEALTH CONTRIBUTE TO HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS. Fierce Healthcare (9/6, Minemyer, 146K) reports on contributions made by organizations around the US to help Houston's storm recovery process. The article says Kaiser Permanente announced a donation of \$1 million for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, split evenly between the American Red Cross and Mental Health America of Houston. Additionally, "nine laboratory technicians from OhioHealth...flew to Houston to aid" recovery efforts. OhioHealth "is a member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network, and its lab techs were able to provide the specialized expertise needed to support MD Anderson." The article adds that area hospitals continue to face the strains of an influx of patients and overworked staff.

OKLAHOMA HEALTH OFFICIALS REPORT FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS DEATH OF 2017. The AP (9/6) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Health said it has recorded its first death from West Nile virus this year. Instances of the illness this year have been reported in Bryan, Cleveland, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie and Tulsa counties, but the first death occurred in Pottawatomie County.

NATIONAL NEWS

LEADING THE NEWS:

+ Senate Committee Begins Hearings About How To Shore Up ACA Marketplaces.

THE SECRETARY IN THE NEWS:

- + CDC Providing States With An Additional \$28.6 Million To Support Opioid Fight.
- + Charges Dismissed Against West Virginia Journalist Who Repeatedly Questioned HHS Secretary.
- + WSJournal: US Government Should Not Spend \$200 Million On Failed Teen Pregnancy Program.
- + Analysis: HHS Secretary Price Dials Back Obama Era Physician-Payment Reforms.
- + Editorial: Republicans' Proposed Link Between ACA, Opioid Crisis Illogical.
- + West Virginia University To Host Summit On Healthcare Policy For Children.

HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Progress In Preventing Stroke Deaths In US Adults Is Slowing, Data Indicate.
- + Carnegie Mellon Is America's Best Predictor Of Influenza Activity, CDC Study Suggests.
- + Indiana Attorney General Accuses CDC Of Attempting To Alter Needle Exchange Evidence.
- + Senate Budget Committee Rejects Trump's Proposed HHS Funding Cuts.
- + Senate Subcommittee Approves \$2 Billion Raise For NIH In 2018 Funding Bill.
- + Cancer Patient Tackles Treatment Costs With Nonprofit.
- + Sanofi Ceases Zika Vaccine Development Amid Drop In Infection Rates, Funding Cuts.
- + Continuing Coverage: NCI Scientists Win 2017 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award For Developing HPV Vaccine.
- + Ex-NIH Employee Sentenced To Prison For Stealing From Institute.
- + FDA Expanding Digital Health Program To Bring Aboard "Entrepreneur-In-Residence."
- + PhRMA's Stephen Ubl Praises Gottlieb In Interview.
- + Opinion: Physician Recommends Less Addictive Opioid As A First-Line Therapy.



- + Opinion: Drug Companies Driving Up Prices By Abusing Regulations.
- + Sarepta's Experimental DMD Drug Appears To Be More Effective Than Eteplirsen In Clinical Trial.
- + FDA Issues Warning Letter To Vertical Pharmaceuticals For Omitting Risk Information In Promotion Materials To Physicians.
- + Opinion: Study Offers A "Much Needed" Critique Of Murthy's Report On Youth Vaping.
- + AOA Disappointed, Concerned About USPSTF Recommendations On Children's Vision Screening For Amblyopia.

HEALTH REFORM:

- + Pennsylvania Insurance Official Insists ACA "Is Not Collapsing."
- + McCain Expresses Support For New ACA Repeal Proposal.
- + White House Adviser Says Trump Will Sign Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal Bill.
- + Latest GOP Effort To Repeal ACA Would Give Control Of Insurance Markets To States.
- + Tester Urges Congress To Closely Examine Single-Payer Idea.
- + Dems, Activists Seek To Promote ACA Enrollment On Social Media After Administration Cuts Funding.
- + Trump, McConnell Meet In Effort To Repair Their Relationship.
- + ACA Fails To Offer Parity For Mental Health Care, Study Concludes.
- + Anthem To Exit ACA Markets In 61 Kentucky Counties.
- + ACA Co-Op Evergreen Health To Be Liquidated.
- + Optima Health Announces It Will Exit Virginia Counties, Leaving Many With No Exchange Insurer.
- + Trump Promises To Try Again To Overhaul Healthcare.
- + Alexander Sees "General Consensus" Forming Around Bipartisan ACA Stabilization Package.
- + Colorado Approves 27 Percent Increase For 2018 Individual Health Insurance Premiums.
- + Commentary Considers Health Reform.

OPIOID NEWS:

- + Insys Ignored Warnings, Manipulated Marketing Of Opioid Subsys, Investigation Suggests.
- + Opinion: Opioid Epidemic Will Continue To Worsen Until It Burns Itself Out.
- + Analysis: Amid Opioid Crisis, Some Shareholders Value Society's Welfare Ahead Of Their Own Profits.
- + Catalent, US WorldMeds To Manufacture Opioid Addiction Medication.
- + Arizona Proposes Five-Day Limits, Other Restrictions On Opioid Prescriptions.
- + Arizona Reports An Increase In Opioid Overdose Deaths This Summer.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD:

+ Medicare Recipients Targeted By Back, Knee Brace Scam.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Conservatives Oppose Bill That Provides \$7.85 Billion For Harvey Relief, Raises Debt Ceiling.
- + Federal Trial Could Make Kentucky The First US State Without An Abortion Clinic.
- + Opinion: Congress Must Protect Consumers From Surprise Air Ambulance Bills.
- + Physicians, Insurers Battle Over Coverage For PCSK9 Inhibitors.
- + Massachusetts Senate Preparing Bill To Control The State's Healthcare Costs.

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

- + Trial Begins On Claims That Coffee Requires Cancer Warnings Under California Law.
- + Dairy Lobbying Against "Soymilk" Results In Proposed Federal Legislation.

NUTRITION & OBESITY:

+ Philadelphia Controller, Beverage Industry Study Impact Of Soda Tax.

MEDICAID & CHIP:

- + Opinion: Congress Must Act Quickly To Re-Authorize CHIP.
- + Group Launches Campaign To Support Maine Medicaid Expansion Ballot Measure.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

+ Pen-Like Device May Help Surgeons Detect Cancerous Tissue, Research Suggests.



- + Study: 94% Of US Tap Water Contains Microscopic Plastic Fibers.
- + Majority Of Football Fans Recognize Danger Of Brain Injuries, But Still Continue To Follow Sport.
- + Analysis: Researchers Examine Fresh Questions About CTE.
- + Rescinding DACA May Exacerbate Immigrants' Healthcare Problems.
- + Ending DACA Expected To Increase Shortage Of Healthcare Workers.
- + Medical Community Says Ending DACA Disrupts Dreamer Student Doctors.
- + Opinion: Pediatricians Are Upset With Trump's Decision To Rescind DACA.
- + Patients Often Feel Intimidated By Physicians, May Behave Like Hostages, Study Suggests.
- + Poll: Majority Believe Physicians And Nurses Have Duty To Protect Patients In Active Shooter Situations.
- + Kaiser Permanente, OhioHealth Contribute To Harvey Relief Efforts.
- + FDA Approves Drug To Treat Knee Osteoarthritis Pain.
- + Conversations Between Oncologists And Patients Regarding Cancer Costs May Help Reduce Treatment Expenses, Study Suggests.
- + <u>Tiotropium May Help Deterioration In Patients With Early COPD If Used In Conjunction With Standard Inhaler Therapy, Study Suggests.</u>
- + Cognitive Therapy Reduces Cyberchondria Health Anxiety, Study Suggests.
- + Many Middle-Aged Women Do Not Sleep Enough, Study Finds.
- + Excision BioTherapeutics Dedicates \$10 Million Seed Funding To HIV Cure Initiative.
- + Lobbying For California Bill Tackling Prescription Prices Escalates.
- + Opinion: Relaxing Compounded Sterile Preparations Regulations Jeopardizes Quality, Patient Health.
- + WPost Analysis: Venezuela's HIV Patients Struggle For Access To Medication.
- + FDA Issues Partial Hold For Bristol-Myers' Opdivo Myeloma Trials.
- + FDA Grants Approval To NuVasive's Redesigned MAGEC System.
- + NIH Funds Research On Health Communications In Virtual Environments.
- + Three People Test Positive For West Nile Virus In Jefferson County, Alabama.
- + Man Dies Of West Nile Virus In Ohio.
- + Parental Angst Leads To Fewer Minnesotans Getting HPV Vaccine, Officials Say.
- + Third Dose Of Mumps Vaccine Could Help Stop An Outbreak, Researchers Say.
- + Rabies Vaccine For Raccoons To Be Airdropped In New York.
- + AAP Issues New Standards For Identifying, Treating Hypertension In Kids And Teens.
- + Tezepelumab Appears To Reduce Rate Of Serious Asthma Attacks, Research Indicates.
- + New Trial Opens Path To US Market For COPD Drug Duaklir.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Trump, Hill Leaders Strike Deal On Debt Ceiling, Hurricane Aid.
- + Trump Reaches Out To Heitkamp, Touts Tax Reform Plan In North Dakota.
- + Government Readies Response As Irma Expected To Hit Florida This Weekend.
- + President, First Lady Donate \$1 Million To 12 Harvey Relief Charities.
- + Trump To Host Full Cabinet At Camp David This Weekend.
- + Trump To Meet With New York, New Jersey Leaders To Discuss "Gateway" Tunnel Project.
- + States Warn Administration Over Fuel Efficiency Rules.
- + Sanders Defends Trump On ABC's "The View."
- + Stocks Rebound From Tuesday's Selloff.
- + WSJournal Analysis: Growth-Inflation Relationship No Longer Holding.
- + Trump Camp Releases Video Titled "Promises Made, Promises Kept."
- + Poll: By 36%-30% Margin, Americans Feel More Positive About Trump Than Clinton.
- + Group Claims Trump Voter Commission Members Using Personal Email Accounts.
- + Facebook Says It Sold \$100K In Political Ads To Russian Firm During 2016 Election.
- + Daily Caller: Ex-IT Specialist May Have Wanted Capitol Police To Find Wasserman Schultz's Laptop.
- + SLF Digital Ad Hits McCaskill Over Russia Ambassador Flap.
- + Study: Percentage Of US White Christians Drops To 43%, But They Make Up 73% Of GOP.
- + Poll: Moore Leads Strange 52%-36% In Sept. 26 GOP Primary Runoff.
- + Zinke's Wife To Serve As Montana Senate Hopeful Downing's Campaign Chair.
- + Jury Hears Opening Statements In Menendez Bribery Trial.
- + In Potential Boost For Democrats, GOP Rep. Reichert Won't Seek Reelection.



- + GOP Rep. Murphy Admits To Extramarital Affair.
- + Kochs-Backed Group Takes Aim At Northam In New Ad.
- + Days After Pritzker Donated \$100K To Blagojevich Camp, Holocaust Museum Got \$1M Grant.
- + Democratic-Aligned Super PAC Aims To Help Party Win Back Statehouses.
- + Charge Dropped Against West Virginia Reporter Who Questioned Price.
- + House Unanimously Passes Sweeping Self-Driving Car Legislation.
- + Bannon Gives "60 Minutes" Interview.
- + Federal Judge Halts Removal Of Robert E. Lee Statue In Dallas.
- + National Cathedral To Remove Windows Depicting Confederate Generals.
- + Legal Fight Ensues Over Kentucky's Last Abortion Clinic.
- + Perriello Calls For Virginia To Create A "Truth And Reconciliation Commission On Race."
- + Competitive Enterprise Institute Attorney: Congress Should End CFPB New Arbitration Rule.
- + WPost: Hogan's Opposition To Metro Funding "Inexcusable."

Leading the News:

SENATE COMMITTEE BEGINS HEARINGS ABOUT HOW TO SHORE UP ACA MARKETPLACES.

The Washington Post (9/6, Goldstein, Eilperin, 10.38M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he is attempting "to forge a modest, bipartisan plan by the end of next week to strengthen the Affordable Care Act marketplaces." He described the proposal as a "small, limited bipartisan step on health insurance." Alexander also urged the Trump Administration to guarantee "funding through 2018 for cost-sharing payments to ACA health plans to offset a requirement in the law that insurers give lower-income customers discounts on deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses."

The New York Times (9/6, Pear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) adds that the senior Democrat on the panel, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), said, "Threading this needle won't be easy. But I do believe an agreement that protects patients and families from higher costs and uncertainty, and maintains the guardrails in our current health care system, is possible."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/6, Collins, 8.62M) reports that the HELP committee "decided to hold the hearings on stabilizing the individual market after" Senate Republicans failed to repeal the ACA. The article says if Congress fails to take action, "millions of Americans may find themselves stuck next year with policies they can't afford – if they are able to buy insurance at all." The piece adds that any changes must be completed quickly since insurers must sign agreements to participate in ACA marketplaces by month's end, unless the Trump Administration decides to extend the deadline.

The AP (9/6, Fram) reports that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle "serenely" discussed how to lower premiums for ACA plans during the hearing. Senators and state insurance officials "embraced the idea of continuing billions in federal subsidies to insurers for reducing out-of-pocket expenses for millions of people," and lawmakers from both parties supported "proposals to provide money to states to help insurance companies afford to cover customers with serious, costly medical conditions." Nevertheless, there are still differences between lawmakers, such as Republicans' request to "make it easier for insurers to sell policies that might offer skimpier coverage than Obama's statute allows."

Bloomberg News (9/6, 4.52M) quotes Alexander as saying about the bipartisan effort, "Democrats will have to agree to something – more flexibility for states – that some are reluctant to support. And Republicans will have to agree to something – additional funding through the Affordable Care Act – that some are reluctant to support." The article says this "new, more modest" proposal "is a sharp change of direction after Republicans' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed earlier this summer."

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/6, Hackman, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that if this effort is successful, it will be the first significant bipartisan bill on healthcare after seven years of fighting over the ACA.



The <u>Connecticut Mirror</u> (9/6, Radelat) reports that Wednesday's hearing is the first of four which the HELP committee has scheduled to hear testimony about how ACA marketplaces can be stabilized. During the hearing, insurance commissioners from several states told committee members that "states need more help from the federal government to stop the spiraling of premiums and the flight of insurers from the ACA's state exchanges."

<u>Politico</u> (9/6, Haberkorn, Cancryn, Bade, 3.6M) reports that there may be opposition to Sen. Alexander's bipartisan effort and quoted Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), the Senate's No. 2 Republican, as saying that it was a "bailout for insurance companies."

Also covering the story are the <u>AP</u> (9/6, Fram), <u>Modern Healthcare</u> (9/6, Lee, Subscription Publication, 238K), the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/6, Cohn, 5.74M), the <u>Boston Globe</u> (9/7, Murphy, 969K), the <u>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</u> (9/6, Mauriello, 516K), the <u>Washington Times</u> (9/6, Howell, 541K), <u>Axios</u> (9/6, Owens, 303K), and <u>Healthcare Finance News</u> (9/6, Morse, 93K).

Alexander Says Lawmakers Would Be Responsible If A Bipartisan Effort To Stabilize ACA Marketplaces Fails. The AP (9/6, Fram) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, said he wants a bipartisan measure to stabilize ACA marketplaces to be completed by the end of next week. That is because insurers are facing a deadline at the end of September. Alexander warned, "The blame will be on every one of us, and deservedly so" if the measure fails.

On its website, <u>CNBC</u> (9/6, Mangan, 3.48M) also reports on Alexander's comments, and further quotes him as saying, "Our goal is a small step, and so many millions of Americans will be hurt if we fail." Alexander urged quick action on the bill, because if there is a delay, lawmakers "won't be able to affect insurance rates and the flexibility of insurers until next year," he said.

The Hill (9/6, Hellmann, Roubein, 1.68M) and the Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) also cover the story.

State Insurance Regulators, Healthcare Industry Groups Urge Lawmakers To Act Swiftly To Stabilize ACA Exchanges. The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Levey, 4.49M) reports that on Wednesday, state insurance regulators urged "Congress to help stabilize health insurance markets around the country" as the Senate HELP committee began holding hearings about how to shore up ACA exchanges. State insurance officials from both parties said they want "lawmakers to maintain the federal funding that subsidizes poor customers' deductibles and co-pays, even as the president continues to threaten to withhold that aid." The officials also asked Congress to act quickly to shore up ACA marketplaces because uncertainty will result in significantly higher premiums for 2018.

On its website, Fox News (9/6, Singman, 12.87M) also reports that insurance regulators and officials from Alaska, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Washington state warned about rising premiums for next year. Lori Wing-Heier, Alaska's director of the Division of Insurance, said rates have risen by 203 percent since 2013. Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak added that "he has been warning about 'spiking rates' for too long and those warnings 'have been ignored at the federal level."

The Hill (9/6, Hellmann, 1.68M) reports that state insurance officials "pleaded" with lawmakers "to quickly act to stabilize the ObamaCare markets, calling for a multiyear extension of key payments to help fund premiums for low-income customers." Tennessee's insurance commissioner Julie Mix McPeak said funding for the cost-sharing reductions "is the single most critical issue that you can address to help stabilize insurance markets for 2018 and potentially bring down costs."

Meanwhile, contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a <u>Forbes</u> (9/6, 5.11M) piece that the healthcare industry is seeking "a two-year commitment of funds from the U.S. Senate's health committee as" lawmakers attempt to pass a bipartisan measure to stabilize ACA exchanges. He says insurers, physicians and "big business are asking the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to provide more stability than the Donald Trump White House, which has paid for cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) on a



month-to-month basis."

<u>Fierce Healthcare</u> (9/6, Small, 146K) reports that the groups wrote to the HELP committee and "urged lawmakers to craft legislation that funds the subsidies for at least two years – from 2018 through 2019." They stated, "Without two years of CSR funding, uncertainty will persist and the Congress will need to address these same issues early next year." The American Medical Association and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association were among the signatories.

Also covering the story are the <u>Tennessean</u> (9/6, Collins, 499K), <u>Vox</u> (9/6, Scott, 1.54M) and the <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/6, King, 465K).

The Secretary in the News:

CDC PROVIDING STATES WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$28.6 MILLION TO SUPPORT OPIOID FIGHT.

Drug Store News (9/6, Johnsen) reports the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing "more than \$28.6 million in additional funding to 44 states and the District of Columbia" to bolster efforts to combat the opioid crisis. The award "builds upon" the \$12 million in overdose prevention support the CDC announced in July. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tom Price said, "One piece of HHS's five-point strategy for combating the opioid crisis is improving our understanding of the epidemic through better public health data. The expansion of these CDC programs, made possible by legislation President Trump signed earlier this year, is an important piece of our commitment to helping states combat the scourge of opioid addiction and overdose."

<u>Fierce Healthcare</u> (9/6, Sweeney, 146K) reports the majority of the funding will support "a state-based prevention program to scale up [prescription drug monitoring program] usage by building in clinical feedback." The article adds that PDMPs "are gaining traction" across the country as the opioid epidemic grows.

Health IT Analytics (9/6, Bresnick) reports that "the CDC will use three new programs" to improve the tracking and prevention of substance abuse issues. CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald said, "Drug overdoses have dramatically increased over the last two decades in America. This additional CDC funding to states, who are on the of the overdose epidemic, is critical to help them scale up prevention efforts to fight this crisis and save lives." The article adds that CMS has "also released a number of resources and guidelines" on opioid hotspots and trends "targeted to the healthcare provider community."

WTOP-FM Washington (9/6, Cloherty, 380K) also covers the story.

CHARGES DISMISSED AGAINST WEST VIRGINIA JOURNALIST WHO REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED HHS SECRETARY. The New York Times (9/6, B2, Stevens, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Dan Heyman, a West Virginia reporter "who was arrested four months ago after he aggressively questioned Tom Price, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, will not be prosecuted, officials announced" on Sept. 6.

The AP (9/6, Raby) reports that Heyman was arrested after repeatedly questioning HHS Secretary Price whether domestic violence is a pre-existing condition under the Republican healthcare proposal. A joint press release from the independent Public News Service and the Kanawha County prosecutor's office said a review cleared Daniel Ralph Heyman, a reporter for Public News Service, of any lawbreaking.

The Hill (9/6, Beavers, 1.68M) reports Heyman faced up to six months in jail after being charged for "willful disruption of government processes," a misdemeanor. Heyman said, "Facing six months of jail time for asking a question as a journalist was pretty troubling." He adds, "I don't want my arrest to have a chilling effect on other reporters because we all need to keep asking the tough questions of elected officials." Also covering the story are Reuters (9/6, Coffman), the Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail (9/6, Zuckerman, 22K) and the NPR (9/6, Held, 2.4M) "The Two-Way" blog.



Opinion. In an opinion piece in the Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M), Erik Wemple observes, "The dropped charges sprinkle fresh context on a comment made by [Secretary] Price about the work of the police in the aftermath of the controversial arrest. 'They were doing a stellar job,' he said."

WSJOURNAL: US GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT SPEND \$200 MILLION ON FAILED TEEN PREGNANCY PROGRAM. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) editorialized that the US Health and Human Services Department's decision to wind down the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program saves \$200 million on a program that had failed to produce results. The editorial mentions a letter sent by Senate Democrats to HHS Secretary Tom Price objecting to the decision. The Journal also asks for the prompt Senate confirmation of assistant health secretary Brett Giroir.

ANALYSIS: HHS SECRETARY PRICE DIALS BACK OBAMA ERA PHYSICIAN-PAYMENT REFORMS. National Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 35K) reports that Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price is "pressing forward" on transforming how Medicare pays providers "with an eye on physician interests and making payment experiments voluntary, rather than mandatory." The piece discusses the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' moves to make more physician practices exempt from the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which aims to make payments based more on quality than quantity of care, and its decision to make bundled-payment models voluntary rather than mandatory. John O'Shea, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation's Center for Health Policy Studies, observed, "[Price is] a physician. He would like to see more physician input to see where these things kind of are headed."

EDITORIAL: REPUBLICANS' PROPOSED LINK BETWEEN ACA, OPIOID CRISIS ILLOGICAL. The Huntington (WV) Herald-Dispatch (9/7, 81K) editorializes that the theory circulating in conservative media that the Affordable Care Act may be "fueling the opioid epidemic" because of expanded Medicaid coverage is "illogical." The editorial references a private analysis produced by HHS that found overdose death rates rose in states that expanded Medicaid – like West Virginia – nearly twice as much as those that did not, but also added that HHS Secretary Tom Price "wasn't immediately buying into that." The piece says research suggests that "the Medicaid expansion is allowing more people to receive treatment, which is what many states hoped would happen."

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY TO HOST SUMMIT ON HEALTHCARE POLICY FOR CHILDREN. The AP (9/7) reports that West Virginia University plans to host a summit on healthcare policy for children on Thursday. Former US Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell and former US Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV) are scheduled to discuss challenges with children's access to quality and affordable healthcare and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

HHS in the News:

PROGRESS IN PREVENTING STROKE DEATHS IN US ADULTS IS SLOWING, DATA INDICATE. On its website, CBS News (9/6, Welch, 4.42M) reports that "after decades of seeing improvements, progress has slowed in preventing stroke deaths in American adults, according to" a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report indicated that "in addition to progress slowing among most demographic groups and states, stroke death rates have also increased among certain groups of people." In a statement, CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, said, "These findings are a wake-up call. We've made enormous progress in reducing stroke deaths, but that progress has stalled." Dr. Fitzgerald added, "We know the majority of strokes are preventable, and we must improve our efforts to reduce America's stroke burden."

<u>CNBC</u> (9/6, Kramer, 3.48M) reports that the data indicated that "stroke death rates failed to continue to decline in 38 states during the 2013–2015 period, resulting in an estimated 32,593 excess stroke deaths that may not have occurred based on previous rates of decline."

<u>TIME</u> (9/6, Sifferlin, 5.85M) reports that the investigators "do not give a definite reason for the slowed or reversing progress." However, "they point out that high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes rates are



high, and all of these factors can increase a person's risk for stroke." Time adds that "currently, more than a third of US adults have obesity, and a third have" hypertension. Fitzgerald said, "This report shows it's time to increase our efforts." She added, "We can not afford to be complacent when so many deaths can be prevented."

<u>Bloomberg News</u> (9/6, Tozzi, 4.52M) reports that Quanhe Yang, senior scientist at the CDC, and lead author of the new report, said, "The risk profile in the US has changed, and changed significantly." Yang added, "This is a wake-up call."

On the <u>Fox News</u> (9/6, 12.87M) website, Fitzgerald writes, "We've made tremendous progress over the past few decades throughout the" US, but "this progress in many areas has stalled, and in some cases, reversed." Fitzgerald adds, "We cannot afford to become complacent about this health threat. It's time to increase our efforts."

CARNEGIE MELLON IS AMERICA'S BEST PREDICTOR OF INFLUENZA ACTIVITY, CDC STUDY SUGGESTS. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (9/6, Templeton, 516K) reports that Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) forecast US influenza activity during the 2016-17 flu season "better than any other forecasting system nationwide," according to a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The article says the two forecasting systems used by CMU placed first and second "among 28 university and government systems evaluated." The article adds that CMU's research group also is developing a prognostication tool for dengue fever and plans to apply existing tools to diseases such as "Human Immunodeficiency Virus, drug resistance and other epidemic viral infections including Ebola, Zika and Chikungunya."

INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL ACCUSES CDC OF ATTEMPTING TO ALTER NEEDLE EXCHANGE EVIDENCE. The <u>Indianapolis Star</u> (9/6, Rudavsky, 479K) reports that Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill in a statement Tuesday "accused federal officials of trying to alter the evidence" regarding the effectiveness of a county needle exchange program. The dispute centers on a state report that indicated drug use increased in Scott County after the implementation of a needle exchange program, which CDC officials claimed was a "mischaracterization."

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE REJECTS TRUMP'S PROPOSED HHS FUNDING CUTS. Modern Healthcare (9/6, Dickson, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports the Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies denied President Trump's proposal to cut \$15 billion "in discretionary funds for HHS for the next fiscal year," according to a summary of an "appropriations bill expected to be released in full Thursday." The article says the decision was made "partially to shield the National Institutes of Health from a budget reduction." The subcommittee recommended "a \$2 billion increase" for NIH, whereas Trump proposed a \$5.8 billion budget cut. The bill also suggests a \$10 million increase for the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, but "makes no reference to the budget proposal's series of Medicaid cuts."

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES \$2 BILLION RAISE FOR NIH IN 2018 FUNDING BILL.

Science Magazine (9/6, Kaiser, 399K) reports the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday "approved a \$2 billion raise, to \$36.1 billion, for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the 2018 fiscal year that begins 1 October." The six percent raise is nearly double what a House panel has approved and "contrasts with a 22% cut that President Donald Trump's administration had proposed for the agency." Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), chairman of the subcommittee, "noted this is the third year in a row that the committee has voted to boost NIH's budget by \$2 billion."

GenomeWeb (9/6) reports the \$164.1 billion fiscal 2018 funding bill specifically earmarks \$1.8 million for Alzheimer's disease research, a \$414 million increase from last year, "and \$400 million is set aside for the agency's BRAIN Initiative – a \$140 million increase over the previous fiscal year." Additionally, the bill also gives the NIH's All of US precision medicine program an additional \$60 million, bringing its fiscal 2018 funding to \$290 million, "and includes funding increases to every NIH institute and research center." The Scientist also covers the story.



CANCER PATIENT TACKLES TREATMENT COSTS WITH NONPROFIT. The Atlantic (9/6, Zhang, 1.64M) reports on the case of David Mitchell, a 66-year-old myeloma patient who "takes \$440,000 worth of drugs a year" and founded the nonprofit Patients for Affordable Drugs, which is "making noise" with an "extremely polished" campaign that advocates for more affordable treatment options. Mitchell is noted for having met with several Novartis executives to push for affordable prices for its Kymriah cancer therapy, which the FDA approved and Novartis priced lower than expected a day after Mitchell's discussion. A transcript of the interview with Mitchell shows he said NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins "explains the long history of NIH in building the foundational science for CAR-T," an integral part of Novartis' treatment.

SANOFI CEASES ZIKA VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AMID DROP IN INFECTION RATES, FUNDING CUTS. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Loftus, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Sanofi SA recently ended the development of two Zika vaccines due to what it said has been a decline in the number of new infections and a limit on federal funding. The US Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) informed Sanofi in August that it would limit funding, contributing to Sanofi's discontinuation of developments for a vaccine it has been testing in partnership with the US Army since 2016. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease director Dr. Anthony Fauci said the decline in infection rates could prolong vaccine development timelines due to researchers needing to enroll more participants in trials. The NIAID also is testing its own vaccine in a study that Dr. Fauci said could be impacted by a drop in the number of participants.

CONTINUING COVERAGE: NCI SCIENTISTS WIN 2017 LASKER-DEBAKEY CLINICAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARD FOR DEVELOPING HPV VACCINE. The <u>Cancer Letter</u> (9/6, Goldberg) reports in continuing coverage that Douglas Lowy, NCI acting director, and John Schiller, deputy chief of the Laboratory of Cellular Oncology and head of the Neoplastic Disease Section at the NCI Center for Cancer Research, won the 2017 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for research that led to the development of the vaccine against HPV infection.

Lowy said in a conversation with The <u>Cancer Letter</u> (9/6) that part of the credit for the award belongs to the NCI intramural research program. Lowy said, "The intramural program [makes it] quite straightforward for people to have long-term collaborations and work together, such as I have had with John Schiller. And, our working together has really made it far easier for us to make progress in this area than might have been the case, certainly, if I had been working alone."

Science Magazine (9/6, Guglielmi, 399K) reports that each Lasker award comes with a \$250,000 prize. According to Science, the Laskers are "regarded as the United States' most prestigious biomedical research awards" and they "often precede a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: Eighty-seven Lasker laureates have gone on to win a Nobel."

<u>Scientific American</u> (9/6, Maron, 878K) interviews Schiller about the award-winning HPV research in which he discusses the difficulties in getting more coverage with the HPV vaccine and how the scientific community can help overcome HPV vaccine hesitancy.

<u>Healio</u> (9/6, 12K) reports NIH Director Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, said in a press release: "I'm incredibly proud of this much-deserved honor bestowed upon John and Doug for their foundational discoveries that led to the creation of HPV vaccines. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, we have the potential to eliminate cervical cancer and greatly reduce other HPV-associated cancers."

Also covering the story is The Scientist (9/6, Grens, 154K).

EX-NIH EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR STEALING FROM INSTITUTE. The Gaithersburg (MD) Patch (9/6, Luttrell) reports former NIH employee Christopher Dame was sentenced to "six months in federal prison and six months of home confinement after he pleaded guilty to theft of government property, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Stephen M. Schenning announced Wednesday." Dame admitted to stealing \$75,000 worth of NIH property while working as a Visual Information Specialist for the Medical Arts Division in Bethesda. The Department of Justice said Dame



also admitted to selling the materials online without authorization.

Bethesda (MD) Magazine (9/6, Zimmermann) reports Dame also will serve "three years of supervised release in addition to paying back \$75,613.14."

The WMAL-AM Washington (9/6, Robinson) website also covers this story.

FDA EXPANDING DIGITAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO BRING ABOARD "ENTREPRENEUR-IN-RESIDENCE." CNBC (9/6, Farr, 3.48M) reports the FDA is "looking for its first entrepreneur-in-residence" by launching a fellow recruitment program through its digital health division to assess product quality and develop data collection methods. The expansion comes as the FDA also prepares to launch its "precertification" process "for digital health start-ups, which aims to fast-track the approval process for less risky software products," and would involve assistance from the entrepreneur-in-residence. FDA associate center director for digital health Bakul Patel told CNBC that he is on "cloud nine" with the speed of the program's development, adding that Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has made the initiative a priority.

<u>Fierce Healthcare</u> (9/6, Sweeney, 146K) reports that these individuals will help the agency "with a novel approach to digital health innovation that regulates companies rather than products by fast-tracking developers that demonstrate a culture of quality and organizational excellence." FDA spokesperson Stephanie Caccomo said in an email to FierceHealthcare that the agency expects to fill up the six slots.

PHRMA'S STEPHEN UBL PRAISES GOTTLIEB IN INTERVIEW. STAT (9/7, Simon, 43K) interviews Stephen J. Ubl, the president and CEO of the PhRMA trade group. Ubl praised Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb's move to speed up the approval process for generic drugs because bringing down drug prices would be beneficial for everyone in the industry. Ubl graded Gottlieb's performance as "A, so far," adding, "Scott's doing a terrific job."

OPINION: PHYSICIAN RECOMMENDS LESS ADDICTIVE OPIOID AS A FIRST-LINE THERAPY. Dr. Frank E. O'Donnell writes in the Washington Examiner (9/7, 465K) that an "underutilized treatment for chronic pain called buprenorphine" may be a highly-promising solution to avoiding opioid addiction before it starts. Buprenorphine is the only opioid in the CIII schedule of drugs, meaning it is categorized by the DEA and FDA with a "reduced risk of addiction," as compared to other opioids which are all CII. According to Dr. O'Donnell, it is "the least addicting of all the opioids used to treat chronic pain." Dr. O'Donnell recommends pharmacy benefit management (PBM) companies change their formularies so that prescribers use buprenorphine as a "first-line therapy" before resorting to a CII opioid, and further suggests that the FDA mandate "so-called black box warnings" saying that physicians should try CIII opioids before resorting to the highly addictive CII opioids. Dr. O'Donnell also mentions that new FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb has declared the opioid epidemic "his first and highest priority."

OPINION: DRUG COMPANIES DRIVING UP PRICES BY ABUSING REGULATIONS. In an opinion piece for The Hill (9/6, 1.68M), David Balto, former policy director at the FTC and former attorney in the DOJ's antitrust division, writes that pharmaceutical companies "have found at least four successful tactics for abusing regulations to avoid the patent cliff: abuse of FDA's Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS), product hopping, citizen petition abuse and pay-for-delay." According to Balto, "fixing these regulatory problems would have a significant impact on drug prices."

SAREPTA'S EXPERIMENTAL DMD DRUG APPEARS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ETEPLIRSEN IN CLINICAL TRIAL. Reuters (9/6, Grover) reports that Sarepta Therapeutics' golodirsen "showed it had the potential to be more effective than the company's approved drug for" Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in a recent clinical trial. At least two analysts "said the amount of dystrophin produced by the investigational drug, golodirsen, was more than the amount produced by Exondys 51 [eteplirsen], Sarepta's other DMD drug that was controversially approved a year back." One analyst anticipates that the Food and Drug Administration "will be eager to bring golodirsen to the market given the lack of alternative treatment options."

STAT (9/6, Feuerstein, 43K) reports that while "making more dystrophin is clearly a positive," Sarepta "still



lacks data to connect that with real clinical outcomes in patients, such as improved walking ability." STAT recounts how some FDA researchers "questioned the reliability of the Exondys 51 dystrophin data, arguing during the review process that such small increases were incapable of improving muscle function in DMD patients." One senior FDA staffer said Exondys 51 is "essentially a scientifically elegant placebo," while another "complained that Dr. Janet Woodcock, head of the drug review division, had slighted the scientific evidence and been swayed by political pressure." CNBC (9/6, Belvedere, 3.48M) also covers the story.

FDA ISSUES WARNING LETTER TO VERTICAL PHARMACEUTICALS FOR OMITTING RISK INFORMATION IN PROMOTION MATERIALS TO PHYSICIANS. STAT (9/6, Silverman, 43K) reports that the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning letter to Vertical Pharmaceuticals for omitting risk information about ConZip (tramadol hydrochloride) in promotional materials given to physicians. According to the letter, Vertical failed to mention that the drug "should only be prescribed when alternative treatments are ineffective or inadequate" and is not approved to be used as an "as-needed analgesic." Andrew Haffer, who heads the FDA Office of Prescription Drug Promotion, wrote in the letter that "these violations are concerning from a public health perspective, because they create a misleading impression about the safety and approved indication for ConZip."

OPINION: STUDY OFFERS A "MUCH NEEDED" CRITIQUE OF MURTHY'S REPORT ON YOUTH VAPING. In an opinion piece for the Washington Examiner (9/6, 465K), Guy Bentley, a consumer freedom research associate at the Reason Foundation, writes that a recent study published in the journal Harm Reduction "serves as a much needed corrective to the hysteria that has pervaded the public debate on e-cigarettes in the wake" of former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy's 2016 report. The authors find that youth vaping is "either infrequent or experimental," and "the majority of the tiny number of young people who vape regularly use e-cigarettes that don't even contain nicotine." The study also calls into question the theory that e-cigarettes are a "gateway" to tobacco use, as the researchers say these studies "suffer severe limitations and none can show causation of young people starting vaping and going on to smoking."

AOA DISAPPOINTED, CONCERNED ABOUT USPSTF RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING FOR AMBLYOPIA. In continuing coverage, Reuters (9/6, Rapaport) reports, "Children should get their vision tested at least once between ages three and five, but there isn't enough evidence to say for sure whether they need evaluations when they're younger," guidelines from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommend. For preschool children, "vision screening can help identify risk factors or symptoms of what's known as amblyopia," the guidelines emphasized. The USPSTF guidelines were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. But, "one challenge in testing children under three is that these kids may not be able to reliably articulate what they see during exams, said Dr. William Good, a scientist at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute in San Francisco whose editorial on the study was published in JAMA Pediatrics."

<u>Health Reform:</u>

PENNSYLVANIA INSURANCE OFFICIAL INSISTS ACA "IS NOT COLLAPSING." The Hill (9/6, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Teresa Miller, Pennsylvania's acting Human Services secretary and former insurance commissioner, told members of the Senate HELP committee that the ACA "is not collapsing, as some Republicans have argued." She is quoted as saying, "I'm not going to sit here this morning and tell you that the ACA is perfect. … I think we all know that it's not, but the narrative that the ACA is failing and imploding is just false."

MCCAIN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR NEW ACA REPEAL PROPOSAL. The Washington Post (9/6, Weigel, Sullivan, 10.38M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) told The Hill that he supports a proposal from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to "end the ACA's Medicaid expansion and insurance subsidies and instead dole out money to states for whatever health insurance programs they favored." The article says McCain's endorsement of "the bill did not queue it up for a vote." The piece adds that although "Graham and Cassidy began discussing the bill in July, there is no text right now —



meaning there's nothing for the Congressional Budget Office to score."

The Hill (9/6, Sullivan, 1.68M) reports that McCain's endorsement of this "newer version of an ObamaCare repeal and replacement bill" provides "some support to the last-ditch effort." He explained that the measure "would convert ObamaCare spending into block grants for states."

The Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) also covers the story.

WHITE HOUSE ADVISER SAYS TRUMP WILL SIGN GRAHAM-CASSIDY ACA REPEAL BILL. The Hill (9/6, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, White House adviser Kellyanne Conway said "President Trump would sign an ObamaCare repeal plan from GOP Sens. Bill Cassidy (La.) and Lindsey Graham (S.C.) if Congress passed it." The article says the President "has continued to press for legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but the Senate's Republican leadership has moved away from the effort after the chamber failed to pass a scaled-down version of a repeal bill in late July."

LATEST GOP EFFORT TO REPEAL ACA WOULD GIVE CONTROL OF INSURANCE MARKETS TO STATES. The Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) "Post Graphics" blog says after the Senate failed to pass an ACA repeal bill in July, "there's one repeal-and-replace plan for the Affordable Care Act left standing. Trump is pushing for a vote, per Politico, but the bill has yet to gain significant traction." The piece says the plan was put forward by Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) and Dean Heller (R-NV), and it "essentially turns control of the health-care markets over to the states."

TESTER URGES CONGRESS TO CLOSELY EXAMINE SINGLE-PAYER IDEA. The Hill (9/6, Roubein, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, Sen Jon. Tester (D-MT) "said Congress should perhaps take a 'solid look' at a single-payer health care system." He made the comments during the HELP committee's hearing about how to stabilize ACA exchanges. The article says "more Democrats are getting on board with the idea of government-funded health care."

DEMS, ACTIVISTS SEEK TO PROMOTE ACA ENROLLMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER ADMINISTRATION CUTS FUNDING. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/6, Armour, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports after HHS said last week that it is slashing funding for ACA enrollment and outreach efforts, Democrats and activists are taking steps to promote the healthcare law on their own, and raise funds for outreach. The article says some 1,500 volunteers are attempting to promote the ACA open enrollment period on social media. The effort is called the Indivisible ACA Signup Project.

TRUMP, MCCONNELL MEET IN EFFORT TO REPAIR THEIR RELATIONSHIP. Politico (9/6, Bresnahan, Everett, 3.6M) reports that on Tuesday, President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) "met privately...in a bid to repair their badly frayed relationship," according to unnamed sources. The two "huddled privately for roughly 20 minutes ahead of a larger gathering of Republican leaders and officials working on tax reform." The article says this was apparently an "attempt to clear the air after a contentious August recess between the two, mostly fueled by the Senate's failure to repeal Obamacare."

ACA FAILS TO OFFER PARITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE, STUDY CONCLUDES. The Philadelphia Business Journal (9/6, Subscription Publication, 894K) reports a study conducted by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania "found that health insurance plans available in the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act offer fewer choices for mental health care compared with primary care." According to the authors, the ACA "doesn't achieve 'parity' for mental health care – the guarantee that these benefits will be covered as fully as other medical benefits."

ANTHEM TO EXIT ACA MARKETS IN 61 KENTUCKY COUNTIES. Reuters (9/6, Erman) reports that on Wednesday, Anthem said "it will offer Obamacare plans in only about half of the counties in Kentucky next year, after covering the whole state in 2017." The company intends to "offer the healthcare plans in 59 counties in the state in 2018."



The Hill (9/6, Weixel, 1.68M) reports that this will leave Kentuckians in many of the remaining 61 counties with only one option for 2018. The article says Anthem "has already announced plans to scale back participation in or leave the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) public exchanges in Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nevada and Ohio."

Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a Forbes (9/6, 5.11M) piece, "The drip, drip, drip of exits by Anthem from providing individual coverage under the Affordable Care Act continued Wednesday when the insurer announced plans to scale back participation on the public exchange in Kentucky." He says the insurance industry has "lobbied for the so-called CSRs to keep their customers from paying 20 to 25% rate increases," however, it seems "Anthem isn't ready to wait to see if Congress funds the CSRs for 2018 and 2019."

The AP (9/6) and the Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) also cover the story.

ACA CO-OP EVERGREEN HEALTH TO BE LIQUIDATED. Modern Healthcare (9/6, Livingston, Subscription Publication, 238K) reports that Evergreen Health, one of the last remaining ACA co-ops, "is being liquidated after a judge ruled the company is insolvent." Per a court order, Evergreen Health's "insurance policies will be canceled at the end of the month." The article says the co-op's "members will be allowed to choose a new plan during a 30-day special enrollment period that began Sept. 1."

OPTIMA HEALTH ANNOUNCES IT WILL EXIT VIRGINIA COUNTIES, LEAVING MANY WITH NO EXCHANGE INSURER. The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/6, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Optima Health announced that it will scale back the areas in which it will offer individual health insurance plans on the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The exit may leave 48 counties and parts of six more, plus 15 cities, without any exchange insurer in 2018.

The <u>Washington Times</u> (9/6, Howell, 541K) reports that the decision will leave 62,000 Virginians in 63 of the state's 95 counties without an option on the exchange in 2018. Optima said it made its decision because three national insurers – Aetna, Anthem, and UnitedHealthcare – had already withdrawn and because of uncertainty in Washington, D.C. As a result, the article says, Optima chose to remain only in parts of the state with a "specific nonprofit chain of hospitals and doctors, where they feel they can adequately manage consumers' care and resulting costs."

The Hill (9/6, Weixel, 1.68M) quoted Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) on Wednesday saying, "This and other recent departures by insurers are avoidable if the President and Congress would simply follow the law and implement the Affordable Care Act as it is written."

Optima Health To Continue Offering ACA Plans In Hampton Roads, But Will Raise Premiums. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (9/6, Murphy, 256K) reports, "Optima Health will remain in the Affordable Care Act marketplace in Hampton Roads and expand its areas of coverage," however, premiums will increase, company officials said on Wednesday. Some 30 percent of the company's ACA customers do not receive subsidies, and for them, premiums will rise by 81 percent. In contrast, premiums will go up by just 1.5 percent per month for those who are eligible for the subsidies.

TRUMP PROMISES TO TRY AGAIN TO OVERHAUL HEALTHCARE. The Washington Examiner (9/6, Morrongiello, 465K) reports President Trump assured a crowd in North Dakota that Republicans will try again to overhaul the healthcare system, "and may soon try a different approach." White House officials "have continued to weigh various legislative options on healthcare reform that could appeal to both Republicans and Democrats," including an amendment proposed by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) that "would redirect federal spending on Obamacare to the states." White House counselor Kellyanne Conway told Fox News on Wednesday that President Trump "is ready with pen-inhand to sign healthcare reform if, say, Graham-Cassidy moves forward," adding, "People have been working on that very strongly over recess."

ALEXANDER SEES "GENERAL CONSENSUS" FORMING AROUND BIPARTISAN ACA STABILIZATION PACKAGE. The Washington Examiner (9/6, King, 465K) reports on the Senate Health,



Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee's Wednesday hearing on a potential bipartisan healthcare stabilization package. Several Democrats were heartened that most insurance regulators at the hearing "called for Congress to create a new federal reinsurance program, which would pay Obamacare insurers that enroll sicker, more expensive people." Lawmakers disagree over whether states of the federal government should run such a program, but "insurance regulators said at the hearing that a federal program is needed to help get things started." Democrats and Republicans also dispute how long a stabilization package should last, but Committee Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said there is a "general consensus" to provide cost-sharing payments and support additional state flexibility.

COLORADO APPROVES 27 PERCENT INCREASE FOR 2018 INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS. The Denver Post (9/6, Ingold, 817K) reports that the Colorado Division of Insurance announced Wednesday that it approved rates proposed by nine insurers "expecting to offer plans both on and off of the state's [ACA] insurance exchange in 2018," averaging a nearly 27 percent premium increase. Breakdowns of rate increases by county are expected later this month. The article notes that regulators negotiated a reduction to Cigna's original request from 41 percent to 31 percent, and additionally lists Anthem's approved rat hike at 30.2 percent.

The <u>Denver Business Journal</u> (9/6, Sealover, Subscription Publication, 879K) and <u>Durango (CO) Herald</u> (9/6, Shinn, 23K) also report.

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS HEALTH REFORM. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Andy Slavitt, a columnist and former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, writes for <u>USA Today</u> (9/6, 8.62M) that despite a bipartisan Senate effort to improve the Affordable Care Act, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Dean Heller (R-NV) are advancing "another partisan effort to repeal the ACA" that is "out of touch with public sentiment." The first draft of Graham-Cassidy-Heller plan features a "cynical redistribution of federal money from mostly urban, blue states that have expanded Medicaid to rural, red states that did not." Slavitt argues that the plan "[divides] the country into winners and losers" to score a Senate win.

Betsy McCaughey, London Center senior fellow and author of "Beating ObamaCare," writes for the New York Post (9/6, 4.31M) that "the middle class is becoming the new uninsured" as the Affordable Care Act added millions of poorer people onto the insurance rolls, "driving premiums so high that middle-class people can no longer afford insurance." McCaughey writes that a bipartisan plan by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to "keep the floundering health law afloat" would benefit insurance companies at the expense of the middle class. "Premiums will never go down until ObamaCare's regulations are repealed," she opines.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), chairman of the Republican Governors Association, writes for the Washington Examiner (9/6, 465K) that "Obamacare is broken, and the best place to fix it is in the states." Walker highlights how welfare was reformed in 1996 as a case for empowering states and argues that for healthcare, "adequately-funded block grants to the states, along with maximum flexibility and control, is the best option on the table." Walker touts Wisconsin as "the only state in the top 10 for health insurance coverage that did not take [Medicaid] expansion" in a recent ranking.

Lee Webb, chair of the board of directors of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, writes for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (9/6, 162K) that Medicaid "remains in the crosshairs" as Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC) "are reportedly working with the White House on a new version of a bill that would kill the Affordable Care Act." The bill "would institute a per capita cap on Medicaid funds distributed to states, costing Maine \$180 million by 2026," Webb writes, citing the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Webb says the proposal also would eliminate Medicaid expansion, "discontinue the tax credits that help Mainers to buy health insurance on the private market," and "weaken protections for people with pre-existing conditions."

Opioid News:



INSYS IGNORED WARNINGS, MANIPULATED MARKETING OF OPIOID SUBSYS, INVESTIGATION SUGGESTS. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Walker, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that according to a report released Wednesday by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Insys Therapeutics Inc. misled a health insurer into approving payment for the prescription fentanyl painkiller Subsys that led to a New Jersey woman's death. The report comes as Insys faces multiple state, federal and civil lawsuits for allegedly defrauding insurers and paying kickbacks to doctors.

Reuters (9/6, Raymond) reports that according to the report by ranking Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, "Insys lacked measures to prevent employees from manipulating the process insurers and pharmacy benefit managers use to deter over-prescription by requiring pre-approval of medicines." McCaskill's report also "noted that in June, Elizabeth Gurrieri, a former manager of reimbursement services for Insys, pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud insurers into paying for Subsys."

<u>U.S. News & World Report</u> (9/6, Newman, 1.73M) reports that McCaskill found "extensive evidence that Insys aggressively pressured its employees and the entire medical system to increase the use of a fentanyl product during a national epidemic," and their "attempts to manipulate the prescription approval process…appear to have been systemic." The article adds that Johnson & Johnson is among the opioid manufacturers that have been contacted by McCaskill as part of her investigation.

The <u>Washington Examiner</u> (9/6, Leonard, 465K) reports that McCaskill said "that Congress need[s] to examine different aspects of the fentanyl problem through work with law enforcement and the Department of Health and Human Services" and she is undecided at the moment if the medication should be recalled.

In his <u>STAT</u> (9/6, Silverman, 43K) "Pharmalot" column, Ed Silverman writes that McCaskill's report shows that Insys Therapeutics ignored warnings regarding its lack of oversight in marketing its opioid Subsys and repeatedly engaged in misleading sales activities. McCaskill's evidence, which includes a copy of a consultant's audit and a recording of a phone call with an employee lying to an insurer, are part of the senator's "ongoing investigation into the opioid crisis."

The Hill (9/6, Hellmann, 1.68M) and the website of CNN (9/6, Kessler, 33.59M) also cover McCaskill's report.

OPINION: OPIOID EPIDEMIC WILL CONTINUE TO WORSEN UNTIL IT BURNS ITSELF OUT. Cathy O'Neil writes in a <u>Bloomberg View</u> (9/6, 4.52M) op-ed that "America's opioid epidemic is getting worse" and it seems unlikely "anyone involved...will do anything in time to mitigate it." O'Neil says physicians "have little incentive" to prescribe fewer opioids and, barring the introduction of safe injection sites and suing opioid manufacturers to help pay for addiction treatment, "all that remains is to wait for the epidemic to exhaust itself...after causing untold mayhem and despair."

ANALYSIS: AMID OPIOID CRISIS, SOME SHAREHOLDERS VALUE SOCIETY'S WELFARE AHEAD OF THEIR OWN PROFITS. The Atlantic (9/6, Alexander, 1.64M) reports that in a July meeting, shareholders of McKesson, a large pharmaceutical distributor, "refused to approve the company's generous executive-compensation plan after the International Brotherhood of Teamsters...campaigned against it." The Teamsters cited McKesson's "role in fueling the prescription opioid epidemic" as the basis for its opposition. The article quotes two economists who contend that "benefiting shareholders should not necessarily be just about financial gains," adding that when shareholders are given the power to vote on company proposals, they "may reveal that they're willing to sacrifice a little profit in the name of their own, and society's, greater welfare."

CATALENT, US WORLDMEDS TO MANUFACTURE OPIOID ADDICTION MEDICATION. NJBIZ (NJ) (9/6, Calio, 22K) reports that Catalent Pharma Solutions has reached "an agreement with US WorldMeds to manufacture Lofexidine, a drug used to help treat opioid withdrawal." The article says the FDA "recently fast tracked" the medication for approval, adding it "already is being used in the U.K. under the brand name Britlofex."



ARIZONA PROPOSES FIVE-DAY LIMITS, OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS.

The <u>Arizona Republic</u> (9/6, Alltucker, 968K) reports that Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey announced Wednesday a plan that "would limit all initial opioid prescriptions to five days for new patients." The new guidelines, intended to reduce opioid abuse, also contain restrictions on the "maximum dosages for pain medication...and require pain prescriptions to be filled electronically."

ARIZONA REPORTS AN INCREASE IN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS THIS SUMMER. The AP (9/6, Silber) reports that the Arizona Department of Health released data Wednesday which show that there were 280 suspected opioid deaths from mid-June through August 24. The state report also said there were 2,361 suspected overdoses over that period, with the most common being for heroin and oxycodone. The numbers come after Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey (R) declared a public health emergency. The department issued a series of recommendations "for law enforcement, correctional facilities, opioid legislation, and medical education curriculums across Arizona" to address the problem.

Healthcare Fraud:

MEDICARE RECIPIENTS TARGETED BY BACK, KNEE BRACE SCAM. Paul Muschick writes in the "Watchdog" column for the <u>Allentown (PA) Morning Call</u> (9/6, 312K) about a back and knee brace scam targeting Medicare recipients. The scheme "isn't new," and involves postcards and phone calls that the Better Business Bureau has issued a warning about. "The scammer will either offer you a back brace through Medicare or claim that a caregiver previously called about receiving a back brace from Medicare," the BBB warned. "If you show interest in the brace, the scammer will start asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number or a Medicare number to access the benefits."

Healthcare News:

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE BILL THAT PROVIDES \$7.85 BILLION FOR HARVEY RELIEF, RAISES DEBT CEILING. The Hill (9/6, Eberhardt, 1.68M) reports that on Wednesday, the House approved "a \$7.85 billion bill for Harvey relief...after Democrats vowed to attach language to the relief bill that will increase the debt limit and fund the government." The article says this sets "up an upcoming showdown over whether the Senate would pass a bill to increase the debt limit as part of the Harvey legislation." The piece adds that conservatives quickly "opposed the combined bill, vowing to fight back on the legislation."

FEDERAL TRIAL COULD MAKE KENTUCKY THE FIRST US STATE WITHOUT AN ABORTION CLINIC. Reuters (9/6, Kenning) reports on a three-day trial scheduled to begin Wednesday in a federal district court in Louisville "that could make [Kentucky] the first U.S. state without an abortion provider." The case revolves around Kentucky's attempt to revoke the license of EMW Women's Surgical Center for failing to "have proper state-required agreements with a hospital and an ambulance service in case of medical emergencies." EMW alleges "the regulations...are unnecessary and create an unconstitutional barrier to abortion." Reuters describes Kentucky's governor as "unapologetically pro-life."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/6, Zavis, 4.49M) reports Kentucky regulators have tried to close the clinic on grounds that the facility lacks the appropriate licensing requirements, but the clinic "has countered with a federal lawsuit arguing that the requirements lack any medical justification and place an unconstitutional barrier before women seeking abortions." The case went to trial Wednesday with hearings expected to last three days.

NPR (9/6, McCammon, 2.4M) reports that similar challenges are likely to occur elsewhere as "states pass legislation known as TRAP laws, for 'targeted regulation of abortion providers."

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (9/6, Yetter, 391K) also covers the story.

OPINION: CONGRESS MUST PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM SURPRISE AIR AMBULANCE BILLS. Contributor Betsy Imholz writes for <u>The Hill</u> (9/6, 1.68M) "Congress Blog" that air ambulance services can result in "astronomical" surprise bills "ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000 and up." Imholz says Congress



must protect patients from such hardships "by adopting the Woodall amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bills, moving on the Isla Rose Life Flight Act, and examining other ways to address consumer concerns in the air ambulance industry."

PHYSICIANS, INSURERS BATTLE OVER COVERAGE FOR PCSK9 INHIBITORS. CNBC (9/6, Mullaney, 3.48M) reports that "two years after PCSK9 inhibitors from Amgen and Sanofi-Regeneron hit the market, patients are caught in the middle" of a battle between physicians and insurers. While physicians "largely agree that most people with cholesterol high enough to need treatment should stick with statins," many physicians believe that PCSK9 inhibitors can be appropriate for high-risk patients. Physicians also say most patients are initially rejected by insurers even when they clearly meet the criteria because of the high cost of the drugs.

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE PREPARING BILL TO CONTROL THE STATE'S HEALTHCARE COSTS. The Boston Globe (9/6, McCluskey, 969K) reports that Massachusetts Senate leaders expect to present a bill in October designed to curb healthcare costs in the state budget and for consumers. State senators are "targeting a long list of complex issues, including prescription drug costs, unnecessary hospital admissions, support services for the chronically ill, and access to mental health services and dental care" in what could be the state's largest healthcare legislation in five years. The senators did not say whether the bill will include Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker's (R) proposals to curb Medicaid costs. Any legislation would need approval by the House and the governor.

Food & Import Safety:

TRIAL BEGINS ON CLAIMS THAT COFFEE REQUIRES CANCER WARNINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW. The New York Post (9/6, Fickenscher, 4.31M) reports that a bench trial began on Tuesday in Los Angeles to decide whether coffee products sold in California must have Surgeon General-like warnings because roasted coffee beans contain low levels of acrylamide, a carcinogen. The suit was brought by a "little-known" public interest group, the Council for Education and Research on Toxics, that claims that the state's Proposition 65 – which requires labels for any product that has a carcinogen – should apply to coffee. The suit names Starbucks and other coffee sellers, while the coffee industry argues that the trace amounts are "too insignificant to cause a health risk," pointing out that foods like toast, cereal, roasted asparagus, and baby food contain the same chemical. The American College of Physicians released a study in July saying that coffee drinkers had a lower risk of death from a number of diseases.

DAIRY LOBBYING AGAINST "SOYMILK" RESULTS IN PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION. Bloomberg BNA (9/7, Finn, 2K) reports that lawmakers from two dairy states, Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), introduced the DAIRY PRIDE Act in January in an effort to prohibit the use of the terms "milk" or "ice cream" to describe any product that does not come from a "hooved animal," such as soymilk. The legislation comes after the Food and Drug Administration has not definitely ruled on the question for 20 years. Both supporters and opponents have spent thousands of dollars lobbying the agency, with 11 entities lobbying the FDA on the measure this year. According to a Bloomberg Government analysis, dairy interests have "significantly" outspent "the plant-food side." The bills are in committee in both houses of Congress.

Nutrition & Obesity:

PHILADELPHIA CONTROLLER, BEVERAGE INDUSTRY STUDY IMPACT OF SODA TAX. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/6, McCrystal, 1.71M) reports Philadelphia's City Controller announced Wednesday that he will begin surveying 1,000 businesses in the city to examine the effects of the city's 1.5 cents-per-ounce soda tax after hearing reports of layoffs and reduced hours from employees in the beverage industry. The announcement comes as a St. Joseph University professor released a study funded by the American Beverage Association which found that grocery stores in the city were losing an average of \$304,322 a month because of the tax. Critics questioned the partiality of the research because it was funded by the industry. Revenues from the tax, reaching \$6.5 million in July, are being used to fund a pre-K program in the city.



Medicaid & CHIP:

OPINION: CONGRESS MUST ACT QUICKLY TO RE-AUTHORIZE CHIP. Gerard A. Vitti writes for <u>The Hill</u> (9/6, 1.68M) "Pundits Blog" that "millions of children" will be left "without health coverage" if Congress fails to renew the Children's Health Insurance Program by Sept. 30. Vitti says that CHIP "as of last year...covered 8.4 million children nationwide" and is just as important as Medicare and Medicaid "in forming a safety net that protects people and families."

GROUP LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT MAINE MEDICAID EXPANSION BALLOT MEASURE. The Portland (ME) Press Herald (9/6, Thistle, 191K) reports Mainers for Health Care launched its campaign to win passage of a Nov. 7 ballot measure to expand Medicaid, "setting the stage for what is likely to be a costly and fiercely fought political battle." Robyn Merrill, the executive director of Maine

likely to be a costly and fiercely fought political battle." Robyn Merrill, the executive director of Maine Equal Justice Partners and co-chair of the Mainers for Health Care steering committee, said, "The benefit and the impact goes beyond the 70,000 people who would directly benefit." Merrill added, "We know from research that states that have expanded their Medicaid programs have seen their private insurance markets stabilize or bring down prices."

Health & Medical News:

PEN-LIKE DEVICE MAY HELP SURGEONS DETECT CANCEROUS TISSUE, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. The AP (9/6, Neergaard) reports that researchers "are developing a pen-like probe to help surgeons better tell when it's safe to stop cutting or if stray tumor cells still lurk." While this "device is highly experimental...laboratory tests show it uses molecular fingerprints to distinguish between cancerous cells and healthy ones far faster than today's technology." The <u>findings</u> were published in Science Translational Medicine.

TIME (9/6, Sifferlin, 5.85M) reports that investigators "tested 253 human tissue samples from lung, ovary, thyroid and breast cancer tumors and compared them to samples of healthy tissues." The study indicated that "the device was 96% accurate at identifying cancerous tissues." The investigators also tested the device, called the "MasSpec Pen, in live mice with tumors and found that the device was able to identify the presence of cancer without harming healthy surrounding tissues."

On its website, <u>NBC News</u> (9/6, Fox, 3.46M) reports that the researchers, "working with funding from the National Cancer Institute and the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas, have filed patents for the technology." Also covering the story are <u>STAT</u> (9/6, Sheridan, 43K) and the <u>Daily Mail</u> (9/6, O'Neill, 5.15M).

STUDY: 94% OF US TAP WATER CONTAINS MICROSCOPIC PLASTIC FIBERS. USA Today (9/6, Diebel, 8.62M) reports researchers who tested tap water from around the world found that over 80 percent of the samples contained microplastics. The contamination is "particularly high" in the US, where 94 percent of faucet water is affected. Samples taken from the US Capitol, EPA headquarters, and Trump Tower all contained the microscopic-sized plastic fibers. The <u>study</u>, commissioned by the data journalism website Orb and conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota, revealed that "the highest rates of contamination was found in Lebanon and India, while the lowest occurred in Europe, where 72% of samples contained fibers." According to Orb, scientists said most of the fibers come from clothes, upholstery, and carpets, "including particles released by the actions of washing machines and dryers."

MAJORITY OF FOOTBALL FANS RECOGNIZE DANGER OF BRAIN INJURIES, BUT STILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SPORT. The Washington Post (9/6, Kilgore, Clement, 10.38M) reports a nationwide poll conducted last month by the Washington Post and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell found professional football remains the most followed sport in the US "by a wide margin, and its massive popularity has not waned in recent years." Approximately 60 percent of Americans say they are fans of pro football, outpacing pro baseball at 45 percent and pro basketball at 49 percent. Poll results reveal more football fans "recognize the danger the sport poses to its players but have chosen to watch,



anyway." According to the poll, 83 percent of respondents believe science indicating the sport causes brain injuries is "either certainly true (45 percent) or probably true." However, among those who said head injuries are a major problem, "74 percent identify themselves as football fans," and "40 percent called themselves 'big football fans."

ANALYSIS: RESEARCHERS EXAMINE FRESH QUESTIONS ABOUT CTE. The AP (9/7, Tanner) reports on the latest research concerning the degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). The article discusses the findings from a report on 202 brains studied by researchers at Boston University and VA Boston Healthcare System which found CTE in all but one of the 111 NFL players studied and in 90 percent of college football players, as well as 20 percent of high school players. Scientists believe that CTE is caused by repeated blows to the head, but some also think genes and lifestyle habits such as diet, alcohol, and drugs may contribute, as well. The article adds that CTE has been found in boxers and players of other sports, including soccer, ice hockey, and baseball, and in soldiers, domestic violence victims, and others. Researchers are currently trying to refine brain scanning to identify CTE in living brains and looking for clues in blood or cerbrospinal fluid to allow diagnosis before death.

RESCINDING DACA MAY EXACERBATE IMMIGRANTS' HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS. In "The Health 202," the Washington Post (9/6, Cunningham, 10.38M) reports Dreamers may face deportation under proposed legislation by the Trump Administration, but the Obama Administration had already blocked them "from participating in the health-care marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act, to the dismay of immigration rights advocates." A July Kaiser Family Foundation report found legal immigrants in the US are twice as likely to be uninsured than US citizens, while undocumented immigrants are four times as likely to be uninsured than US citizens. Considering this, immigrants "play a big role in driving up the nation's uninsured rate," and immigration advocates fear the Administration's decision "to limit Dreamers' rights by ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is only going to exacerbate immigrants' insurance problem."

ENDING DACA EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS. The New York Times (9/6, Scheiber, Abrams, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports the economic impact of ending DACA "could be significant" in healthcare, "depriving patients of help they depend on and driving up costs for families and taxpayers." In particular, the home care industry "relies heavily on authorized immigrant labor," and ending DACA would worsen an already "disastrous situation in terms of shortages of supply," according to Sherwin Sheik, CEO and founder of CareLinx, a company that matches home care workers with patients and their families. Surveys of DACA beneficiaries show that nearly 20 percent work in the healthcare and educational sector, suggesting a "potential loss of tens of thousands of workers from in-demand job categories like home health aide and nursing assistant." Simultaneously, projections indicate "that the economy will need to add hundreds of thousands of workers in these fields over the next five to 10 years simply to keep up with escalating demand, caused primarily by a rapidly aging population."

MEDICAL COMMUNITY SAYS ENDING DACA DISRUPTS DREAMER STUDENT DOCTORS. Fierce Healthcare (9/6, MacDonald, 146K) reports President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program "drew harsh reaction from the medical community." The Association of American Medical Colleges said they were "extremely dismayed" by the decision. Fourth-year medical students with DACA status "may not have a work permit a year from now and won't be able to go on to a residency or work with underserved populations," according to Mark G. Kuczewski, PhD, chair, department of medical education and director, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Kuczewski said Loyola's medical school currently has 32 students with DACA status.

Healthcare IT News (9/6, Sullivan, 5K) reports the American Medical Association has also called on Congress to consider legislation allowing dreamer doctors to remain in the country. AMA CEO and Executive Vice President James L. Madara, MD, said the decision to reverse DACA "fails to recognize the enormous contributions of hundreds of thousands of individuals who are living, working, and providing vital services in the United States, including healthcare services." He added, "We particularly are



concerned that this reversal in policy could have severe consequences for many in the healthcare workforce, impacting patients and our nation's healthcare system." Madara argued that eliminating DACA protection will make the ongoing primary care physician shortage worse, and it will "also hit rural and underserved areas hard and those are places that DACA physicians are likely to work." Madara wrote, "The AMA is concerned that the quality of care provided in these communities will be negatively impacted and that patient access to care will suffer."

OPINION: PEDIATRICIANS ARE UPSET WITH TRUMP'S DECISION TO RESCIND DACA. In an opinion piece in the <u>Huffington Post</u> (9/6, 5.74M), contributor Claire McCarthy, MD, a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital and assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, writes that the 66,000 pediatricians that make up the American Academy of Pediatrics are a "diverse group of people," but something they all have in common is that "we care about the health and well being of children and young adults." Just hours after the Trump Administration decided to end DACA, the AAP released a statement opposing the action. McCarthy says ending DACA "is really bad for the health and well being of 800,000 children and young adults," and, "as pediatricians, this makes no sense to us." Furthermore, McCarthy says the move "calls into question our values and priorities as a country." She calls on Congress to determine a "path to safety and citizenship for these youth."

PATIENTS OFTEN FEEL INTIMIDATED BY PHYSICIANS, MAY BEHAVE LIKE HOSTAGES, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Crist) reports that medical patients frequently are reluctant "to express concerns" to their physicians and "worry about being 'difficult'" in a manner similar to hostages, according to a new <u>study</u>. The study's lead author, Dr. Leonard Berry, said, "Hostage bargaining syndrome is a very real phenomenon that many patients experience" as a result of intimidation, "particularly those with a serious disease or in a state of great vulnerability."

POLL: MAJORITY BELIEVE PHYSICIANS AND NURSES HAVE DUTY TO PROTECT PATIENTS IN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS. Reuters (9/6, Rapaport) reports "18 percent of the public and 33 percent of health professionals thought the odds of a shooter in a hospital were high or very high," according to a recent survey of "1,017 members of the public and 684 health professionals." Additionally, "slightly more than 60 percent" of both groups "thought doctors and nurses had a special duty to protect patients," and "thirty-nine percent of the public and 27 percent of health professionals thought doctors and nurses should" assume "a high degree of personal risk to help patients" in the event of an active shooter. Both groups rated "hospitals as lower-risk" locations than places such as "shopping centers, airports or schools."

FDA APPROVES DRUG TO TREAT KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS PAIN. The <u>Triangle (NC) Business</u> <u>Journal</u> (9/6, Henderson, Subscription Publication, 865K) reports that the Food and Drug Administration approved Bioventus' treatment for knee osteoarthritis pain, Durolane (hyaluronic acid). The company intends to launch Durolane in the US in early 2018.

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ONCOLOGISTS AND PATIENTS REGARDING CANCER COSTS MAY HELP REDUCE TREATMENT EXPENSES, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Weinstock) reports that research suggests "even brief conversations between oncologists and patients about cancer costs" may "help reduce treatment expenses." The findings were published in the Journal of Oncology Practice. Reuters adds, "In 2009, ASCO recommended that physicians discuss the costs of cancer treatment with patients, because they can become a tremendous financial burden." Dr. Richard Schilsky, chief medical officer of ASCO, said, "I am hopeful that as doctors read about studies like this they realize that it's feasible to discuss cost in patient encounters." In a telephone interview, Dr. Schilsky added, "This study is encouraging because it documents real doctor-patient encounters that were meaningful and demonstrated that doctors are knowledgeable about how to identify alternatives for patients that are less costly." Dr. Schilsky was not involved in the study.

TIOTROPIUM MAY HELP DETERIORATION IN PATIENTS WITH EARLY COPD IF USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH STANDARD INHALER THERAPY, STUDY SUGGESTS. Reuters (9/6, Emery) reports that if chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) "can be detected early, the drug tiotropium might be able to slow that deterioration if used in conjunction with standard inhaler therapy," researchers



concluded. In 388 patients with mild COPD "who were treated with tiotropium, lung capacity declined by an average of 38 mL per year, compared with a 53-mL decline among 383 placebo recipients," the study found. The findings were published online in the New England Journal of Medicine.

According to MedPage Today (9/6, Boyles, 60K), the authors of an accompanying editorial "questioned whether other LAMAs or long-acting beta-agonists (LABAs), or a combination of the two, may also slow lung function declines and improve QoL in patients with early-stage COPD." The editorialists then "called for studies of newer drugs and different combinations to answer the question."

COGNITIVE THERAPY REDUCES CYBERCHONDRIA HEALTH ANXIETY, STUDY SUGGESTS.

Reuters (9/6, Kelland) reports British health experts found that as much as 20 percent of "UK hospital appointments for heart or brain scans and other exploratory tests are taken up by patients suffering from excessive health anxiety or hypochondria," which could be worsening "due in part to people with disproportionate health worries researching symptoms online in a phenomenon known as 'cyberchondria.'" In a presentation of a study examining the condition, "researchers said hypochondriacs given an average of six sessions of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) over several months saw significant and sustained reductions in their anxiety levels." The results also showed that five years after therapy ended, those who had CBT "were less over-anxious about their health than a control group who did not get the CBT." The findings were published in the British National Institute for Health Research Journals Library.

MANY MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN DO NOT SLEEP ENOUGH, STUDY FINDS. CNN (9/7, Strickland, 33.59M) reports a study from the National Center for Health Statistics found that more than one-fourth of middle-aged women said they experience difficulty falling and staying asleep four or more times each week, while more than one in three women said they sleep fewer than seven hours per night. Of those, perimenopausal women "were the least likely to sleep seven or more hours a night." Sleep experts recommend women in this age bracket sleep seven to nine hours per night.

EXCISION BIOTHERAPEUTICS DEDICATES \$10 MILLION SEED FUNDING TO HIV CURE INITIATIVE. The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Gormley, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports Excision BioTherapeutics received \$10 million in seed funding to develop a cure for HIV. The company will work on developing a treatment through employing gene editing to remove HIV-1 from human cells based on

the results of animal studies showing Excision's Crispr-based approach can remove the virus from animals. Artis Ventures led the financing, which will allow the company to begin human trials in 2018.

LOBBYING FOR CALIFORNIA BILL TACKLING PRESCRIPTION PRICES ESCALATES. The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Mason, 4.49M) reports lobbying efforts in support of a California bill to require pharmaceutical companies to disclose prescription price information has increased during the final days of the legislative session. SB 17 has attracted the backing of advocacy groups, health plans, and "highprofile" organizations such as the AARP and NextGen. Where other similar initiatives "have faltered in the past," supporters believe that this bill, which has more bipartisan support, could fare well amid "dramatically" changed political dynamics, according to author state Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-West Covina). Nevertheless, the bill faces "vigorous opposition" from pharmaceutical manufacturers.

OPINION: RELAXING COMPOUNDED STERILE PREPARATIONS REGULATIONS JEOPARDIZES QUALITY, PATIENT HEALTH. Greg Rockers, RPh, and Brian Williamson, PharmD, managing directors of the Williamson Rockers Group in Kansas, write in an op-ed in The Hill's (9/6, 1.68M) "Pundits Blog" to advocate for the continuation of "one of the most important safeguards for patients who receive" compounded sterile preparations, a Drug Quality and Safety Act (DQSA) provision requiring facilities that produce large amounts of sterile compounds to "meet the same quality standards as conventional drug manufacturers." The authors argue that if Congress scales back on the policy and relaxes quality standards, the "clear line between traditional compounders," such as physicians and pharmacists, and "outsourcing facilities," which register with the FDA and can produce large quantities for distribution without prescriptions, will become blurred, and could jeopardize patient health.

WPOST ANALYSIS: VENEZUELA'S HIV PATIENTS STRUGGLE FOR ACCESS TO MEDICATION. In



an analysis, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/6, Faiola, Krygier, 10.38M) reports on Venezuela's "imploding health system" plagued by "cascading medical crises" amid the economy's deterioration in recent years – one of which is the spike in complications from HIV/AIDS as the country's prevention programs have ceased. The Post highlights the story of Carmen Hernandez, a Venezuelan woman who regularly struggles to acquire her HIV medication as the nation's supply steadily dwindles.

FDA ISSUES PARTIAL HOLD FOR BRISTOL-MYERS' OPDIVO MYELOMA TRIALS. Reuters (9/6, Berkrot) reports the FDA "placed a partial hold on three clinical trials testing Bristol-Myers Squibb's immunotherapy Opdivo in combination with other medicines for multiple myeloma due to risks seen in similar studies involving a rival drug." Bristol Myers said patients involved in the trials who experienced clinical benefits will be permitted to continue treatment, but no new participants will be enrolled for the time being. The company said, "The FDA determined data currently available from non-Opdivo studies indicate the risks of PD-1/PD-L1 treatment plus pomalidomide or lenalidomide and possibly PD-1/PD-L1 treatments alone or with other combinations outweigh potential benefit for patients with multiple myeloma." Opdivo is part of a "high-profile new class of drugs called PD-1 inhibitors" that block tumors from hiding in the immune system.

FDA GRANTS APPROVAL TO NUVASIVE'S REDESIGNED MAGEC SYSTEM. The San Diego Business Journal (9/6, Whitlock, 43K) reports NuVasive announced it received FDA 510(k) approval for its "redesigned MAGEC system with its RELINE Small Stature system," a spinal implant treatment for early onset scoliosis. NuVasive EVP of strategy, technology and corporate development Matt Link said the clearance "highlights our speed to market and our further commitment to bringing procedural solutions that transform care to the pediatric deformity market."

NIH FUNDS RESEARCH ON HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS IN VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS. The Guardian (UK) (9/7, Ponti, 3.39M) reports on a self-funded pilot study "in which DUI posters from Mothers Against Drunk Driving were inserted into a first-person shooting game." Researchers have observed "a reduced willingness among participants to engage in these behaviors in the future." The National Institutes of Health, with support from the National Cancer Institute, last month awarded \$387,354 in research funding to the study.

THREE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA. The Birmingham (AL) News (9/6, Edgemon, 729K) reports that three Jefferson County, Alabama, residents have tested positive for the West Nile virus, according to the county health department. Two of the patients remain in the hospital. Edward Khan, medical director for the Jefferson County Health Department, said that there have been 14 people infected and one death in the state this year, but added, "There is no need for widespread panic." The article mentions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for avoiding mosquito-borne diseases, including using EPA-registered insect repellents, wearing long sleeves and pants, and installing screens on all windows and doors.

MAN DIES OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN OHIO. The AP (9/7) reports that a 74-year old man in Defiance County, Ohio, became the first recorded fatality from West Nile virus in Ohio this year. Ohio officials have reported ten human cases of West Nile virus so far this year.

The <u>Toledo (OH) Blade</u> (9/6, Lindstrom, 187K) adds that Sietske de Fijter, state health department epidemiologist, cautioned, "Mosquito season in Ohio lasts until the first freeze, which is not usually until mid-October." Ohio recorded 17 cases and four deaths in 2016.

PARENTAL ANGST LEADS TO FEWER MINNESOTANS GETTING HPV VACCINE, OFFICIALS SAY. The Minneapolis Star Tribune (9/6, Shah, 1.27M) reports that the latest figures from the National Immunization Survey show a slight decrease in the number of Minnesota girls getting the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The numbers prompted state health officials to "step up efforts to reach out to both parents and doctors" about the importance of the vaccine, as research has shown that the vaccine is "incredibly effective at preventing cancer." The piece discusses that some parents fear that giving their children the HPV vaccine "could be interpreted by the youngster as tacit approval of sex." The article adds that the CDC found many young people are not getting the "full dosage of the vaccine, which is



administered in a series of shots," and noted that stopping partway will "not adequately protect them from the virus."

THIRD DOSE OF MUMPS VACCINE COULD HELP STOP AN OUTBREAK, RESEARCHERS SAY. STAT (9/6, Branswell, 43K) reports that a study in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that an extra, third dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine can help stop mumps outbreaks. Researchers analyzed data from a mumps outbreak at the University of Iowa in 2015 to 2016, during which 259 students contracted the virus, despite 98 percent of the student body having received two doses of the vaccine. The study found that a third dose reduced the risk of contracting the mumps by 78 percent. The article discusses that recent mumps outbreaks prompted the CDC to set up a working group to investigate the issue and to recommend changes to mumps vaccination policy. Such recommendations may come as soon as next month.

MedPage Today (9/6, Walker, 60K) adds that the authors of the study found "waning vaccine effectiveness" since students who had their second dose of MMR more than 13 years before the outbreak had a higher risk than those who had gotten it within two years of the outbreak. The authors pushed for additional research on the effectiveness of a third dose, as their study found only that "a third dose of MMR vaccine has 'suggested benefit' on outbreak control."

RABIES VACCINE FOR RACCOONS TO BE AIRDROPPED IN NEW YORK. Newsday (NY) (9/6, Ricks, 1.64M) reports that a program to airdrop small packets of fishmeal bait containing a rabies vaccine will begin Thursday over parts of Nassau County, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. The aerial program aims to inoculate the area's raccoon population from rabies. The program is coordinated by Cornell University, local health agencies, and the US Department of Agriculture.

AAP ISSUES NEW STANDARDS FOR IDENTIFYING, TREATING HYPERTENSION IN KIDS AND TEENS. The Philadelphia Inquirer (9/6, Giordano, 1.71M) reports that in the journal Pediatrics, a panel from the American Academy of Pediatrics issued "new <u>standards</u> for identifying and treating high blood pressure in children and adolescents." Under the new standards, teens "13 or older have the same definitions of abnormal blood pressures as adults," and "young people will be identified as having elevated or high blood pressure at a lower threshold than previously recommended."

TEZEPELUMAB APPEARS TO REDUCE RATE OF SERIOUS ASTHMA ATTACKS, RESEARCH INDICATES. Reuters (9/6, Hirschler) reports, "Findings from a mid-stage clinical trial involving 584 patients" indicated that "the experimental drug tezepelumab reduced the annual rate of serious asthma attacks, known as exacerbations, by between 61 and 71 percent, depending on dose." The <u>findings</u> were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

According to <u>HealthDay</u> (9/6, Dotinga, 11K), the author of an accompanying <u>commentary</u> wrote that "tezepelumab appears to be the broadest and most promising biologic for the treatment of persistent uncontrolled asthma to date."

NEW TRIAL OPENS PATH TO US MARKET FOR COPD DRUG DUAKLIR. Reuters (9/7, Sandle) reports that AstraZeneca's drug Duaklir improved lung function in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients, according to a new study. The results pave the way for submission of the drug to US regulators in the first half of 2018 based on the data from the new trial. Britain's Circassia holds the rights to the drug in the US.

National News:

TRUMP, HILL LEADERS STRIKE DEAL ON DEBT CEILING, HURRICANE AID. Media reports, including those on all three major network newscasts, indicate the President overrode Republican concerns – and essentially cut a deal with Democratic leaders – to avert a government shutdown while raising the debt ceiling and providing aid for hurricane recovery. Media coverage of the agreement is starkly unfavorable toward Trump, particularly in conservative outlets. The Daily Caller (9/6, 521K), for



example, said Trump "unexpectedly caved to Democrats," and <u>Breitbart</u> (9/6, Spiering, 2.42M) headlined its report "Meet the Swamp," and said he "appeared willing to punt his big agenda items." The President did not fare much better across the broader media landscape: Despite what <u>Reuters</u> (9/6, Cowan, Cornwell) calls "a rare instance of bipartisan compromise," most reports and analyses cast the deal as evidence of Trump's erratic style, and lament the fact that he appeared to undercut the leaders of his own party.

Though more flippant than much of the news analysis, Dana Milbank would appear to encapsulate the overall media take when he writes in his Washington Post (9/6, 10.38M) column, "Such chaos and confusion at the highest level of American government hadn't been seen since, well, the day before." Last night, ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 6, 1:50, Bruce, 14.63M) referred to the "stunning image" of Trump "cutting a deal with Democrats and blindsiding his own party" in "a surprise snap decision." The CBS Evening News (9/6, story 7, 0:45, Mason, 11.17M) asked, "Why did he do it?" and concluded Trump agreed with Democratic leaders because "he's lost confidence in Republicans' ability to govern." To NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 6, 1:30, Welker, 16.61M), meanwhile, "political drama erupted within his own party" just as Trump readies a push for his agenda.

Gloria Borger said on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/6, 1.32M), "This is not about what the Republican Party wants or what the Republican leaders want. ... This is about what...Trump wanted, and what...Trump wanted was to show the American public that, 'Okay, I can get my hurricane funding through, I'm not going to let it get tied up.'" The deal "means...the Republicans understand now that the President doesn't care about them. So it will affect, I think...what they do on tax reform and on everything else, because they have clearly parted ways."

After the White House meeting, Politico (9/6, Bade, Everett, Dawsey, 3.6M) reports, "Democrats were gleeful." The Washington Post (9/6, Kane, 10.38M) similarly indicates Senate Minority Leader Schumer "could not hide his glee as he approached the microphones Wednesday afternoon," telling the Post reporter, "Ye of little faith." After that, in "one of the strangest news briefings of the year," Schumer "praised...Trump." Now, adds the Post, "for the first time...Democrats can envision playing offense, possibly securing victories on immigration and health issues." USA Today (9/6, Singer, Collins, 8.62M) quotes Schumer as saying, "The nation can breathe a sigh of relief, we've avoided default, avoided government shutdown. ... It was a good moment of bipartisanship."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/6, Bierman, Bennett, 4.49M) reports that en route to North Dakota yesterday, the President touted the agreement, "We had a very good meeting, we essentially came to a deal. I think the deal will be very good." <u>USA Today</u> (9/6, Singer, Collins, 8.62M) quotes Trump as saying, "We agreed to a three-month extension on debt ceiling, which they consider to be sacred – very important – always we'll agree on debt ceiling automatically because of the importance of it. ... Also on the CRs and also on Harvey, which now we're going to be adding something because of what's going on in Florida – but we had a very good meeting."

Wolf Blitzer reported on <u>CNN's Situation Room</u> (9/6, 1.32M) "a source says...Trump left Republican leaders, quote, shell-shocked," and the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/6, Debonis, Snell, Viebeck, 10.38M) accuses the President of "upending negotiations on a variety of crucial policy areas this fall and further damaging relationships with Republicans on Capitol Hill." <u>Roll Call</u> (9/6, Bennett, 134K), meanwhile, says that "after weeks of attacking members of his own party, Trump appears to have escalated tensions" with them.

The New York Post (9/6, Schultz, 4.31M) recounts that at the meeting, "all the Republican congressional leaders" and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "wanted a longer-debt limit increase, upwards of 18-months, according to one source, but Democrats wanted just a three-month deal." The Post adds that "there was a standstill, but instead of agreeing to disagree, Trump wanted to solve it immediately" and "offered to make a deal himself and offered up three months for a continuing resolution and a three-month debt limit increase." Then Trump, "who had previously donated to Schumer and other Democrats as a billionaire New York businessman, thanked Pelosi and Schumer for coming to the White House." Said the President, "Nancy, Chuck, I appreciate it very much." ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 6, 1:50, Bruce, 14.63M) reported "the meeting grew even more tense when Ivanka Trump walked in," as "sources say the



conversation veered off topic" and "GOP leaders grew visibly annoyed."

In the New York Times (9/6, Thrush, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) account, Trump "interrupted...Mnuchin as he argued for an 18-month debt ceiling increase to stabilize financial markets," and "when other leaders offered yearlong or half-year extensions, the president waved them off," yielding to "two Democratic leaders he has relentlessly demonized and marginalized."

Writing for Axios (9/6, 303K), Jonathan Swan said Trump "handed Pelosi and Schumer the deal of the century over the debt ceiling," in "a move one top Republican described to me as the legislative equivalent of giving an entire stockpile of weapons to Democrats and inviting them to take the entire Republican Party hostage."

The Los Angeles Times (9/6, Bierman, Bennett, 4.49M) says Trump's "sudden move...caught his party leaders off-guard and severely undercut Republican legislative strategy," leaving GOP leaders "seething." USA Today (9/6, Singer, Collins, 8.62M) reports, however, that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "announced he'd adopt the strategy moving forward after Trump backed it." The Hill (9/6, Carney, 1.68M) also reported McConnell "confirmed he will support the agreement," and Reuters (9/6, Cowan, Cornwell) quotes him as saying of Trump, "His feeling was that we needed to come together, to not create a picture of divisiveness at a time of genuine national crisis. ... And that was the rationale, I'm confident, for his decision to agree to what I'm going to be offering" on the Senate floor. Reuters notes, however, that earlier in the day, Speaker Ryan "had called the Democratic proposal for a three-month increase a 'ridiculous and disgraceful' idea that would 'play politics with the debt ceiling."

A New York Times (9/6, Peters, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) analysis refers to "the scenario...Trump's most conservative followers considered their worst nightmare," and adds that "it seemed to come true: The dealmaking political novice, whose ideology and loyalty were always fungible, cut a deal with Democrats." The Wall Street Journal (9/6, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that Trump sided with Democrats, the AP (9/6, Werner) that he "largely sided with Democratic leaders as they pushed for" a "three-month" spending deal, McClatchy (9/6, Clark, 67K) that he "delivered a resounding victory to Democrats," and the Washington Examiner (9/6, Kasperowicz, 465K) that Republicans were "surprised and even angered."

NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 6, 1:30, Welker, 16.61M), however, showed Kellyanne Conway disputing the notion that Trump cut a deal with Democrats: "That is just false. There's no deal struck with Democrats. This is a deal on behalf of the American people."

In an editorial, the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/6, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) argues the deal is a bad one for Trump and Republicans, but puts much of the blame for the President's decision on what it casts as a dysfunctional GOP caucus, which has seemed unable to agree on much and has failed to move on the President's agenda. Along those lines, Ben Domenech writes in <u>The Federalist</u> (9/6, 88K) that Trump did "something that Washington should've expected, but didn't because they're locked in to bad conventional wisdom." To Domenech, "the pivot is real, and it's spectacular," as Trump wakes up "to the inaccuracy of the conventional wisdom about 'needing McConnell and Ryan' which has animated so much of the early failures of the Republican legislative agenda."

Jason Riley of the Manhattan Institute said on Fox News' Special Report (9/6, 1.81M) that Trump has been "hinting at doing this for some time, that I'll deal with Democrats if the Republicans won't push my agenda the way I see to be appropriate. In that sense, this isn't much of a surprise. But, Republicans in Congress have a different relationship with voters than the President does. I think these members of Congress need to chalk up some accomplishments, and they believe they were sent to Washington to cut spending, to address these fiscal problems we have. When they look at a President doing this, dealing with Democrats and they look like they've been backed in a corner and having to increase spending, increase the debt ceiling without anything in return, they are thinking, 'Our voters are going to say, what good are we?'"

Mollie Hemingway of the Federalist said on Fox News' Special Report (9/6, 1.81M) that this shows "that



there is room to negotiate in the center and that...Trump has figured it out. If he's not going to get anything from Republicans anyway, and he is not a particularly conservative ideologue anyway, why not try to get some of your agenda passed? He is not a deficit hawk. He is not so concerned about these things. So, he is just kind of fed up and he is done with what Republicans are doing. But it is not good news for conservatives who were trying to extract anything in response to an increase on the debt limit."

The New York Times (9/6, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports Rep. Mark Walker, "chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee, expressed frustration at what he views as a missed opportunity to address the nation's debt." Said Walker, "We're grateful that in Texas the floodwaters continue to recede…but here in the swamp, it looks like they continue to rise."

Short: "Clearing The Decks" Will Aid Tax Reform Push. Bloomberg News (9/6, Wasson, Sink, Litvan, 4.52M) reports, meanwhile, that White House legislative affairs chief Marc Short defended the deal yesterday, telling "reporters on Air Force One that 'clearing the decks' will allow lawmakers to focus on a GOP priority: overhauling the tax code."

WPost Analysis: Trump May Be In Stronger Position To Leverage Wall Funding In December.

Analyzing Trump's decision to make the deal, the Washington Post (9/6, Debonis, Snell, Viebeck, 10.38M) reports that he "has threatened he would shut down the government if Congress doesn't agree to fund the wall construction, and he would be in a better position to leverage that threat in December than in September, when Congress had numerous bills lawmakers felt needed to be passed." However, adds the Post, "by agreeing to also suspend the debt ceiling until Dec. 15, Trump has given Democrats more leverage in a series of upcoming negotiations."

Unnamed "Democratic Strategist": Deal Shows Trump "Utterly Clueless." The Washington Times (9/6, Dinan, Miller, 541K) reports that "a Democratic strategist said Mr. Schumer went into the meeting with the president convinced Democrats would have more 'leverage' in other pending legislative battles if they obtained a short-term extension on the debt limit through Dec. 15." This "source" thought "the fact that Mr. Trump agreed to Mr. Schumer's proposal shows that the president is 'utterly clueless about how the Hill operates."

Pro-DACA Lawmakers, Activists Upset At Democrats Over Deal. Politico (9/6, Schor, Caygle, 3.6M) reports the "short-term fiscal deal...tees up a tough choice for the Democrats who triumphantly negotiated it: whether to risk a government shutdown later this year to win relief for Dreamers." Schumer "declared before reaching Wednesday's deal with Trump that if Republican leaders don't allow a vote" on DACA "this month...'we are prepared to attach it to other items this fall until it passes." However, "Schumer stopped short of vowing to withhold Democratic votes for must-pass bills that Congress is expected to consider this fall." Politico adds that "some lawmakers and pro-Dreamer activists were frustrated at Democratic leaders on Wednesday, lamenting that the party had ceded ground to the GOP by agreeing to a short-term funding package that allows more time to cut a broader immigration deal." Said Rep. Luis Gutierrez, "Right now there are many Democrats who feel we gave up, not just me."

Daschle: Current Congressional Dysfunction Is "Troubling." In an op-ed for USA Today (9/6, 8.62M), former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle calls "the extraordinary level of dysfunction and disarray" in the current Congress "deeply troubling." Daschle argues that "there are none more qualified to demand better governance than the more than 1.1 million men and women who have fought and died for our country's democracy," and he adds that "the least each member of Congress can do now in respect for those exceptional and historic contributions is to work together to restore a functioning federal government once again."

TRUMP REACHES OUT TO HEITKAMP, TOUTS TAX REFORM PLAN IN NORTH DAKOTA. National media coverage of the President's <u>remarks</u> in North Dakota highlighted his outreach to Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, viewed as a potential supporter of his tax reform agenda. The event, says the <u>AP</u> (9/6, Colvin, Thomas), was "an overt pitch...for Democrats to support his tax overhaul plan." Heitkamp, who is "up for re-election next year, traveled to the state with Trump aboard Air Force One as the president sought to frame the tax overhaul as a 'once in a generation' opportunity to cut taxes and simplify the tax



code."

<u>USA Today</u> (9/6, Jackson, 8.62M) reports "White House officials are hoping she can help them win a tax overhaul," and that Trump "offered up some unusually kind words to describe" her. In fact, the <u>Washington Post</u> (9/6, Johnson, 10.38M) reports, "a year from now, North Dakotans may be hearing these two words a lot: 'Good woman.'" The Post adds that "as Heitkamp stepped onto an outdoor catwalk at an oil refinery...to join him on stage, Trump delivered play-by-play commentary," saying, "Everybody's saying, 'What's she doing up here?' ... But I'll tell you what: Good woman." The Post concludes that "with that, Heitkamp had the makings of a potentially powerful advertisement for her reelection campaign next fall."

The Washington Times (9/6, Miller, 541K) refers to "a rare display of bipartisanship," and the New York Times (9/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) indicates that "pitching his plan as something that should have bipartisan appeal, Mr. Trump noted that President Ronald Reagan won passage of a major tax plan with a Congress led by Democrats." Trump then "motioned toward...Heitkamp" and said, "You listening, Heidi? ... Yes, she was listening. I'm not going to put her on the spot."

The <u>Bismarck (ND) Tribune</u> (9/6, Dalrymple, 46K) says the President addressed "an enthusiastic crowd at the Mandan Refinery," made up of "about 700 energy workers, agriculture and business leaders and state officials." Trump "was accompanied to North Dakota by daughter Ivanka Trump, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn and North Dakota's Congressional delegation." The President invited Gov. Doug Burgum, Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford and North Dakota's Congressional delegation "to join him on stage, calling special attention to the lone Democrat on stage," Heitkamp.

Says Politico (9/6, Nussbaum, Schor, 3.6M), "Trump has already tried negotiation-by-threat in his push for tax reform – but on Wednesday he took a softer touch." Politico adds that the President "is leaning on Democratic senators from states he won in 2016 to support his effort for tax reform in hopes of avoiding the narrow defeat suffered by his health care reform proposal in August." The Hill (9/6, Kamisar, 1.68M) reported Heitkamp "has attempted to foster a better relationship with Trump than some of her Democratic colleagues as she represents a state that Trump won by almost 40 points in November." She "met with Trump at his Manhattan apartment during his transition and was briefly floated for a Cabinet post. Since then, she's given Trump a wider berth than other more liberal senators as far as his cabinet appointments."

Heitkamp's presence at the event, however, led to some Democratic complaints. <u>US News & World Report</u> (9/6, Catanese, 1.73M) reported there was "grousing from some corners of her party," but her "willingness to play ball with the president exhibits the a tricky conundrum confronting a slate of moderate Democrats hailing from red states who happen to be up for re-election next year." Added US News, "As the president tours the country to tout an unspecified tax reform plan, he's making sure to touch down in places where he can put pressure on such vulnerable Democrats." The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/6, Radnofsky, Rubin, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) offers a similar analysis under the headline "Donald Trump Urges Democrats To Join Him On Tax Overhaul."

<u>WDAZ-TV</u> Grand Forks, ND (9/6, 5:02 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump called tax reform "a once in a generation opportunity. He wants to simplify the tax code, make it simple and easy for everybody to do. He wants to cut taxes for the middle class. He wants to cut corporate taxes – big corporations, small businesses, medium businesses – and he wants to bring business back from overseas." Trump was shown saying, "I want all of America to be inspired by what's happened in North Dakota and the North Dakota example. This state is a reminder of what can happen when we promote American jobs instead of obstructing American jobs."

KXMC-TV Minot, ND (9/6, 5:05 p.m. CDT, 2K) said that "the message...from the President is tax reform is on the way. He highlighted a four point plan. ... Here are his goals: He wants a simple, fair, and easy to understand tax code. He stressed cutting taxes for middle class families. He wants to bring back trillions from overseas. What the president is proposing today is considered a major tax overhaul. He really



pushed this tax reform as a bipartisan deal, and a win for North Dakota and the nation." Trump was shown saying, "Only if you, the American people, tell Congress to stop putting party first and start putting America first, only then will it happen." The <u>Grand Forks (ND) Herald</u> (9/6, Hageman, 79K) reports the President also "touted his efforts to lift restrictions on oil and natural gas development, including permitting the long-contested Dakota Access Pipeline."

CBS News (9/6, Guild, 4.42M) noted on its website that Trump "promised to 'restore America's competitive edge' in the global economy" and "called the tax code a 'self-inflicted economic wound." Moreover, the AP (9/6) reports, Trump "said Wednesday he's with farmers and ranchers in North Dakota '100 percent' as they cope with a deep drought, but said nothing about the state's request for a presidential disaster declaration."

In his monologue on Fox News' Hannity (9/6, 2.52M), Sean Hannity said, "What the President is calling for...will have a profound positive impact on the forgotten men and women in this country and the country as a whole. Workers would have more money in their pockets after not seeing real raises in years. Companies will be able to see lower taxes. That means they can hire more employees and invest in new technologies, build factories in manufacturing centers. Just like President Reagan, GDP growth and federal tax revenue...will soar. Ironically, Washington will have more money to waste. The destroy-Trump media, they don't care about any of this. They are not interested in the truth, they are not interested in the business of offering solutions to people that have been left behind. What is the media's main objective? They create false narratives, outright lies. Their obvious goal is to try and damage, delegitimize...Trump."

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on <u>Fox News' Hannity</u> (9/6, 2.52M), "Many Americans want the dignity of work. They want to be self-sufficient. They want to know that they have high-paying jobs that are stable and secure. The best way to do that really is to lower taxes – to lower taxes on our job creators, our job holders, and our job seekers, and also repatriate all this wealth that is legally parked offshore. Bring the wealth back to this country. This is very simple. The President laid it out today."

Trump's Introduction Of His Daughter To North Dakota Crowd Merits WPost Story. The Washington Post (9/6, Johnson, 10.38M) reports Trump said during his remarks, to cheers, "Everybody loves Ivanka. ... Come up, honey. Should I bring Ivanka up? Come up." The Post adds that "as the president's 35-year-old daughter made her way up to the stage, Trump kept talking." Trump is quoted adding, "Sometimes they'll say: You know, he can't be that bad of a guy, look at Ivanka. ... Come on up, honey. She's so good. She wanted to make the trip. She said: 'Dad, can I go with you?' She actually said: 'Daddy, can I go with you?' I like that, right? 'Daddy, can I go with you?' I said: 'Yes, you can.' [She said,] 'Where are you going?' [I said,] 'North Dakota.' I said, 'Oh, I like North Dakota.'"

GOVERNMENT READIES RESPONSE AS IRMA EXPECTED TO HIT FLORIDA THIS WEEKEND.

Hurricane Irma is the subject of a great deal of media coverage both in print and on all three network news broadcasts, which led with the story Wednesday evening and spent a total of 27 and-a-half minutes on it. Before a meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday, President Trump expressed concern about the path of the Hurricane, "saying that the Category 5 storm now bearing toward Florida is 'not good,'" USA Today (9/6, Korte, 8.62M) reports. Trump said, "We have a lot to discuss, including the fact that there is a new and seems to be record-breaking hurricane toward Florida and Puerto Rico and other places. ... It looks like it could be something that will be not good. Believe me, not good." Trump has "declared a state of emergency for the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Florida on Tuesday in anticipation of the storm's landfall, mobilizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin positioning disaster relief resources in the path of the storm." Wednesday afternoon, Trump tweeted, "Just spoke w/ Governors Rick Scott of Florida, Kenneth Mapp of the US Virgin Islands & Ricardo Rosselló of Puerto Rico. WE ARE W/ YOU ALL!"

The Washington Post (9/6, Alvarado, 10.38M) reports that the Pentagon has "approved the use of two ships – originally deployed for Hurricane Harvey relief – to assist in Florida as needed." FEMA Director Long "said that incident management assistance personnel already are on the ground in vulnerable areas." Asked on CNN's Situation Room (9/6, 1.32M) if his agency's resources are stretched too think in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, Long said, "We're not stretched too thin. The goal is right now we've



established recovery command in Texas, so we have a good footprint that we are establishing to make sure we are going everything in Texas. ... Now, what we have done it since the response phase has basically come to a close in Texas, we are now re-positioning search and rescue teams and other commodities into the southeastern United States and are ready to go with our partners in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands."

However, NBC Nightly News (9/6, story 5, 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported that while the House on Wednesday "overwhelmingly passed a nearly \$8 billion disaster relief bill for victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas," and the Senate "is expected to go along...\$8 billion is just a fraction of what Harvey and now Irma are expected to cost." CNN government regulation correspondent Rene Marsh said on CNN's The Lead (9/6, 1.34M), "FEMA is dangerously close of running out of money. FEMA had just over \$1 billion with \$541 million of that, as they say, for immediate use, and that was as of Tuesday morning. On Wednesday...the House did approve a \$7.81 billion relief aid package, but now the Senate has it and it's gotten political at this point because it's being tied to raising the debt ceiling. But again, the point is, will this be enough?"

The New York Times (9/5, Rivera, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Irma "battered the islands of the northeast Caribbean early Wednesday, leaving severe damage in its wake as it barreled toward the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico," where officials "have warned that the island's fragile electrical grid could be shut down for days, weeks or even months in some areas." Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and emergency officials warned in a news conference "that with such powerful winds expected to thrash the island, infrastructure, houses and the phone system would inevitably be damaged."

In the lead story for ABC World News Tonight (9/6, lead story, 3:15, Muir, 14.63M), David Muir said that "more than 500,000 [are] without power" in Puerto Rico already. Linzie Janis added, "The head of the power company says it could be between four and six months before power is restored to some of those areas." The New York Times (9/6, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) says Puerto Rico's "financial straits have left essential public works, from power plants to retaining walls, weakened by years of scrimping on maintenance," and correspondent Leyla Santiago said on CNN's The Lead (9/6, 1.34M), "This is an island that is \$40 billion in debt. That is another crisis, another storm, if you will, looming over this island of 3.5 million people, 3.5 million US citizens." There is "a lot of fear, a lot of uncertainty of what's to come, not only for the power and the utilities, but for the infrastructure and what could be rebuilding of this island if this Category five storm is as devastating as many believe it could be."

The CBS Evening News (9/6, lead story, 2:20, Mason, 11.17M) reported that according to the National Hurricane Center "chances have grown for a direct hit on Florida, possibly as soon as the weekend." Reuters (9/6, Malone) says "officials in Florida called for evacuations ahead of the storm's expected landfall there this weekend." Gio Benitez said on ABC World News Tonight (9/6, story 3, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) that the Florida Keys are "under a full-scale evacuation." The Miami Herald (9/6, Hanks, Mazzei, 701K) reports that Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez has issued his first evacuation orders requiring more than 100,000 residents "to leave their homes on barrier islands, including Miami Beach, and in low-lying mainland areas starting Thursday morning." In addition, Gimenez's office "announced the opening of four hurricane shelters Wednesday afternoon, with four more...opening Thursday morning."

The <u>Los Angeles Times</u> (9/6, Neuhaus, King, 4.49M) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott "begged constituents to obey calls to flee the storm's path when the time came," saying in a statement, "I cannot stress this enough – do not ignore evacuation orders. ... If you're told to evacuate, don't wait – get out quickly." Manuel Bojorquez said on the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/6, story 2, 1:55, Mason, 11.17M) that Scott "estimates 25,000 people in the state have already evacuated."

The Miami Herald (9/6, Staletovich, 701K) reports that Scott "ordered another 900 National Guard members to duty on Wednesday." He also "said that no gas shortages have been reported, but the state is keeping watch on supplies and also tracking the availability of bottled water." The Orlando (FL) Sentinel (9/6, Torralva, Hayes, 603K) reports that Scott "pleaded for more volunteers" to "work in shelters, distribute food and for response efforts." The Sentinel adds that Florida is preparing for the storm "to be bigger than Hurricane Andrew that hit the state 25 years ago." said Scott, "Here's what we didn't have in



Andrew: We didn't have this amount of wind; Andrew was not as big as this is. ... This is 185 mph winds and they're tracking it even higher than that at some times." The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (9/6, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that authorities say they storm could also impact northern Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Additional network news stories covered a range of topics related to the hurricane including forecasts, preparations, and the impact the storm has had on areas it has already hit, among others: <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/6, story 2, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M), <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/6, story 4, 2:15, Muir, 14.63M), <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/6, story 5, 1:35, Muir, 14.63M), <u>ABC World News Tonight</u> (9/6, story 13, 0:30, Muir, 14.63M), the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/6, story 3, 1:45, Strassmann, 11.17M), the <u>CBS Evening News</u> (9/6, story 4, 2:00, Mason, 11.17M), <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/6, lead story, 1:50, Holt, 16.61M), <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/6, story 3, 2:30, Holt, 16.61M), <u>NBC Nightly News</u> (9/6, story 4, 1:45, Sanders, 16.61M).

Florida Sheriff Says He'll Check For Warrants At Hurricane Shelters. The New York Times (9/6, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that Polk County, Florida Sheriff Gray Judd said Wednesday that authorities "would check the identities of people who turn up at shelters and take to jail anyone found to have an active arrest warrant." In a series of tweets, Judd wrote, "If you go to a shelter for Irma and you have a warrant, we'll gladly escort you to the safe and secure shelter called the Polk County Jail. ... We cannot and we will not have innocent children in a shelter with sexual offenders & predators. ... If you have a warrant, turn yourself in to the jail – it's a secure shelter."

Limbaugh Offers Hurricane Advice. The Washington Post (9/6, Selk, 10.38M) reports that radio host Rush Limbaugh on Tuesday described himself as "the go-to guy" on hurricane information and spent 24 minutes of his broadcast "dispensing hurricane advice that no meteorologist or federal agency would likely dare utter." The Post goes on to contrast the advice offered by Limbaugh to that issued by FEMA.

PRESIDENT, FIRST LADY DONATE \$1 MILLION TO 12 HARVEY RELIEF CHARITIES. The AP (9/6, Superville) reports that the President and First Lady "are donating \$1 million to 12 charities involved in Harvey relief efforts." According to the White House, "the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse and Reachout America will share \$800,000 of the donation." In addition, "the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Catholic Charities, Direct Relief, Habitat for Humanity, Houston Humane Society, Operation Blessing, Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies and Team Rubicon" will receive \$25,000 each.

The Washington Post (9/6, Fahrenthold, 10.38M) reports that a statement from the White House "said that President Trump and first lady Melania Trump had witnessed some of these charities at work firsthand, during their two visits to areas of Texas hit by the hurricane, which was the biggest rainstorm recorded in the history of the continental US." Others were "recommended, at the invitation of the President, by members of the White House Press Corps." It was unclear from the statement "if the charities had already received the donations or if the checks would arrive in the coming days," and the Post notes that "before last summer, Trump had a long record of making pledges to give his personal money to charity but an uneven record of fulfilling them." The New York Times (9/6, Baker, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) also points out that Trump's "history of charitable contributions has come under fire." Politico (9/6, McCaskill, 3.6M) and the CBS Evening News (9/6, story 5, 0:40, Mason, 11.17M) also report on the Trumps' donations.

Bloomberg Analysis: Agency Vacancies Could Hinder Harvey Relief Efforts. Bloomberg News (9/6, Shields, Dlouhy, Flavelle, 4.52M) reports that there are "vacancies in hey posts related to emergency response" due to the Administration's "slow pace of appointments," which "may hamper efforts to help victims of Harvey's record rainfall and Hurricane Irma's punishing winds." FEMA and HUD are missing deputies while the EPA "doesn't have a regional director in Texas whose duties would include responding to Harvey's inundation of polluted Superfund sites." Bloomberg adds that President Trump "has said he doesn't intend to fill 'unnecessary' positions," and he "has proposed slashing the EPA's budget by almost a third, HUD's by 13 percent and FEMA's by 11 percent."



House Approves \$7.85 Billion Harvey Relief Measure. Politico (9/6, Ferris, 3.6M) reports that in a 419-3 vote Wednesday, the approved a \$7.85 billion measure "for response to Hurricane Harvey, with the goal of landing the legislation on President Donald Trump's desk by week's end." The measure is now headed to the Senate, "where GOP leaders plan to link it to a separate effort to raise the debt ceiling." Politico cites "multiple House and White House officials" who said that Trump "is aiming to quash growing GOP opposition to the strategy to raise the debt ceiling as part of a Hurricane Harvey relief package."

Gas Prices Climb In Harvey's Wake. The Washington Times (9/6, Wolfgang, 541K) reports that Harvey's impact is being felt across the nation as the average cost of a gallon of gas climbed "28 cents higher on average than a week ago, according to federal data." According to figures released Wednesday by the Energy Information Administration, "gas prices on Monday, Sept. 4, averaged \$2.68 per gallon, which was up 28 cents from a week earlier."

Texas Town Underwater For Second Time In Two Years. The New York Times (9/6, Robertson, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports that in 2016, the Sabine River "swelled up...and swallowed the whole town" of Deweyville, Texas. After Harvey, "houses that people worked on for months, gutting and renovating and refurbishing, and had finally moved back into less than a week ago" are flooded, as are "houses that people planned to move back into later this month," and "trailers brought here by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as temporary refuges after last year's flood."

Removal Of Storm Debris From Harvey Will Take Months, Cost Billions. The New York Times (9/6, Schwartz, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 13.56M) reports on efforts to remove the more than 100,000 piles of storm debris, from the streets of Houston, saying that of the challenges facing southeast Texas after Harvey, "few will linger longer or more visibly than the millions of pounds of debris already crowding curbs and edging onto streets." The cleanup "will take months and cost billions of dollars."

Harvey Evacuees Remain In Shelters. A front-page story in the Washington Post (9/6, A1, Hesse, 10.38M) profiles Harvey evacuees still staying in a Houston shelter while the national news appears to have "turned its attention to Hurricane Irma and to be talking less about the people still stuck in the Texas shelters."

Tax Attorneys: Aid To Texas Should Come In The Form Of A Loan. In an op-ed for the Washington Post (9/6, Barnes, Rosenbloom, 10.38M), Peter A. Barnes, a fellow at Duke University's law school, and H. David Rosenbloom, director of the International Tax Program at the New York University School of Law, both of whom are tax attorneys at law firm Caplin & Drysdale, write that while "members of Congress from New York and New Jersey complain about the hypocrisy of Texas requesting federal aid, given the fact that the Texas congressional delegation almost unanimously opposed the federal aid package for Hurricane Sandy in 2012," America "is too good to withhold support as political payback." However, the funding "should come in the form of a loan – perhaps a long-term loan at a favorable interest rate, but definitely a loan." Barnes and Rosenbloom argue that as an "avowedly a low-tax state," it is "grossly unfair for Texas to accept funds from all of America's taxpayers to allow it to continue its exceptionally low-taxed ways."

TRUMP TO HOST FULL CABINET AT CAMP DAVID THIS WEEKEND. CNN (9/7, Collins, 33.59M) reports that President Trump is expected to return to Camp David this weekend and hold a Cabinet meeting there. The meeting is expected to address "a wide range of issues, spanning from the administration's legislative strategy for tax reform to the growing nuclear crisis in North Korea."

TRUMP TO MEET WITH NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY LEADERS TO DISCUSS "GATEWAY" TUNNEL PROJECT. Reuters (9/6) reports that President Trump is scheduled to meet with New York and New Jersey state and congressional leaders at the White House Thursday to discuss the "Gateway Project" to build a tunnel under the Hudson River, according to two sources. The meeting will include Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie have been invited.

STATES WARN ADMINISTRATION OVER FUEL EFFICIENCY RULES. Reuters (9/6, Shepardson)



reports that at an Environmental Protection Agency public hearing on Wednesday on the fuel rules in Washington, officials from California and New York challenged the Administration's examination of US vehicle fuel efficiency standards, with one California official warning "that the state could withdraw from a nationwide vehicle emissions program if the EPA weakens the regulations or ignores the technical record" and with the New York official also urging the Administration not to loosen the rules. The incident comes as the Administration and major states "appear to be headed for a showdown over landmark rules aimed at doubling the fuel efficiency of vehicles sold in the United States."

SANDERS DEFENDS TRUMP ON ABC'S "THE VIEW." The Washington Post (9/6, Andrews-Dyer, 10.38M) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders appeared with her father, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee on ABC's "The View" Wednesday. Sanders, says the Post, "spent the hour almost completely unfazed and unbothered," telling the hosts "that she has spent a lot of time with the president and that she has 'always felt respected and empowered' to do her job, adding that Trump doesn't 'just put milquetoast women around him.'" Sanders "pointed out that she's the first working mother to take over the podium in the press briefing room," and added, "Instead of liberals celebrating it, they have attacked me."

STOCKS REBOUND FROM TUESDAY'S SELLOFF. Reuters (9/6) reports that stocks "bounced back from a day-earlier selloff" Wednesday. The Dow added 54.33 points to close at 21,807.64. The S&P 500 climbed 7.69 points to 2,465.54, and the Nasdaq ended the day 17.74 points higher at 6,393.31.

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: GROWTH-INFLATION RELATIONSHIP NO LONGER HOLDING. In an analysis, the Wall Street Journal (9/6, Sindreu, Subscription Publication, 6.45M) reports that despite major nations reporting stronger economic growth, observers are puzzled by the absence of inflation that typically accompanies such growth. Explanations for the breakup of the standard growth-inflation relationship upon which central banks operate include globalization, the rise of large multinationals, and the decline of labor unions.

TRUMP CAMP RELEASES VIDEO TITLED "PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT." The Washington Times (9/6, Miller, 541K) reports that President Trump's reelection campaign on Wednesday unveiled a video "highlighting the president's executive actions to promote apprenticeships and his 'Buy American, Hire American' program, claiming it showed he was keeping his promises from his first campaign. The video, titled 'Promises Made, Promises Kept,' featured testimonials by apprentices at Medalcraft Mint Inc. in Green Bay, Wisconsin, which makes the campaign's 'presidential medals' – commemorative coins emblazoned with Mr. Trump's image." The Trump camp said the factory "symbolizes 'President Trump's promotion of Made in America economic principles and his strong support for apprenticeships through a recent executive order for training our workforce."

Predictit Strongly Favors Trump To Be 2020 GOP Nominee. USA Today (9/6, Cummings, 8.62M) reports that Trump "is almost certain to face one or more challengers for his party's nomination in 2020, if he seeks re-election." However, Trump "need not worry about any threat to his nomination from outside the White House, according to the prediction market Predictit. The site, where 'traders' buy and sell shares in the outcomes of future events, opened trading on the 2020 Republican presidential nomination Wednesday," with "share prices for Trump easily [outpricing] those of all his potential Republican challengers." USA Today lists the prices as Trump "46 cents," followed by Vice President "21 cents," Ohio Gov. John Kasich "7 cents," and several other Republicans lagging further behind.

Poll: Trump Approval Rating Lower Among Voters Who Backed Him And Obama. Politico (9/6, Shepard, 3.6M) reported that President Trump "is losing support from voters who crossed over to back him in last year's election, according to a new" poll. The "survey from the bipartisan Democracy Fund Voter Study Group, which has been interviewing the same voters repeatedly for the past six years, identifies which voters have drifted away from Trump over the first six months of his presidency." Politico said, "Among all Trump voters, the president's approval rating remains high: The vast majority, 88 percent, approved of the job he is doing as president. But there is erosion among voters who backed Barack Obama in 2012 but switched to Trump in 2016. Only 70 percent of those Obama-Trump voters approved of the job the president is doing. And 22 percent disapproved – a rate more than twice the 9

